

# AFFORDABLE ALL AUSSIE STYLE homes+

**\$100,000**  
WIN  
CASH PRIZE PG18

REAL READERS' HOMES + EXPERT TIPS + DIYS + SHOPPING + FOOD

DIY projects



gift guide



festive food



happy xmas homes



table settings



scotty's DIY



## christmas special

real  
readers  
share  
their  
chrissy  
style

"At Christmas we surround ourselves  
with things that bring us joy!" - Briony

**GET READY**  
for family  
and friends

**146**  
great gift  
ideas

**XMAS TREE**  
STYLES TO STEAL

**easy-to-make decorations**

**DELICIOUS TRIPLE CHOC TRIFLE**



12

9 313006 024705  
DECEMBER AU \$5.40



# LOADS

## HARVEY NORMAN'S KING SIZE RANGE

Laundry is the job that's never finished. And with the average washing machine having a 7kg capacity, it's no wonder Australian families can do up to 10 loads per week. Harvey Norman now has the latest range of washers and dryers available, designed to free up your time with one big feature: size.



# AND

**CLEAN THE FAMILY IN LESS LOADS  
WITH AUSTRALIA'S MOST ENERGY  
EFFICIENT 10KG TOP LOADER**

Finish your washing in a fraction of the time with the WashSmart™ 10kg, featuring SmartDrive™ technology for reliability, a 4-star energy rating and Eco-Active™ wash cycle. The 8kg Condensing Dryer completes the set, with enough room inside for your clothes to dry evenly and minimise creasing.



**FISHER & PAYKEL 10KG WASHSMART**

**\$1099** | WA1068G1

**FISHER & PAYKEL 8KG CONDENSER DRYER**

**\$949** | DE8060P2



# LOADS

## THE PERFECT MATCH FOR A BUSY LIFE, LET THIS PAIR TAKE CARE OF YOUR CLOTHES

The AEG 8 Series Front Loader's 10kg capacity means fewer loads for your family. Plus, OekoMix™ technology, low energy consumption and low noise, makes for a brilliant wash every time. Together with the Series 8 Condenser Dryer with ProText drum and 8kg capacity, clothes are dried gently, quickly and evenly.



**AEG 10KG FRONT LOAD WASHING MACHINE**

**\$2299** | L89409FL

**AEG 8KG CONDENSER DRYER**

**\$1899** | T862801C



# LESS

## GET LOADS MORE OUT OF LIFE WITH KING SIZE WASHING CAPACITY

Perfect for large families, LG's latest washer dryer combo saves time, space, energy, water and money. The huge 15kg capacity machine uses TrueSteam™ and 6 Motion™ technology for a gentle, powerful and deeper clean. Plus, LG's Smart Diagnosis communicates directly with LG specialists in case of fault.



**LG 15KG WASHER/  
7.5KG DRYER COMBO**

**\$2699** | WD1259FD6



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# HOMES + CONTENTS

( AFFORDABLE, EASY, DOABLE )



## EVERY ISSUE

**6 IN THIS ISSUE**  
Meet **our talented homeowners** and find out their top Chrissy buys.

**10 VIEWA**  
Get **extra content** on your phone or tablet.

**ON THE COVER**  
This month, we meet Briony Jones, her husband Cameron and their three daughters. Briony has turned her 1970s home on Sydney's Upper North Shore into a **glamorous and welcoming space**, with traditional touches perfect for a cosy family Christmas.

**WELCOME TO HOMES+**  
Style is for everyone and your home is all about making you happy. Say hello to **homes+** – a magazine that delivers accessible, practical and easy ideas that we hope will brighten your month. – The **homes+** team.



## PRACTICAL IDEAS

**15 HANDY HINTS**  
Need a little help around the house? We share all the clever tips and tricks to a happier, more efficient home. This issue, we cover shortcuts to an easy, **stress-free Christmas**

**21 EASY DIY**  
Christmas is the time to get your craft on! We have **seven do-it-yourself decorating projects with a festive flavour** guaranteed to get you in a creative mood this Chrissy. There's everything from cute clay decorations and yarn stars to woody antlers and concrete Christmas trees (yep, these trees are made to last!). Not to mention an advent calendar that looks stylish and is a cinch to make.



## BARGAIN BUYS

**35 \$100 AND UNDER**  
No need to stress about your Christmas shopping this year because we've done all of the hard work for you! Check out our round-up of **great gifts for all the family**, with lots of fab finds for the gals, the guys and the kids – and all with a super-affordable price tag.

**86 BEST BUYS**  
This month, we're bringing you a selection of festive finds – think cutlery and candles, to decorations and dishes – to create a gorgeous Christmas setting at your place. Choose from **golden glitter, traditional and rustic charm**.



## READERS' HOMES

**44 CLASSIC**  
Traditionalist Briony Jones has used her signature **old Hollywood style** to create a family home that's not only glamorous but practical and cosy, too.

**52 CONTEMPORARY**  
After three years of renovating Kahlia Ryan and her husband Matt have transformed their rundown house in the Lower Blue Mountains into a **light and airy space with a mix of Scandi, beachy and industrial style influences**.

**60 BEACHY**  
Tess Beagley has lovingly renovated her 1950s weatherboard worker's cottage to create a **contemporary coastal home, full of character and creative charm**.



# HOMES+ RENOVATING & DECORATING FOR PROFIT WORKSHOP

## PLANNING A HOME MAKEOVER?

Don't do a thing until you've been to this workshop. Reno expert Cherie Barber, style master James Treble and money guru Effie Zahos will give you all the info you need to make your renovation or decorating projects pay off big time!

SEE PAGE 13 FOR DETAILS



## EASY FOOD

### 72 PARTY STARTERS

Planning a party this Christmas? We've got delicious nibbles to impress your guests, from smoked trout pinwheels and spicy beef meatballs to baked brie and prawn burritos.

### 74 FARE TO SHARE

Christmas lunch couldn't get any tastier, or easier, than this! We've got the **starter, main, sides and dessert sorted** – plus, a handy timeline to help you create your most stress-free Chrissy yet.

### 78 MERRY MORSELS

Spiced star biscuits, pistachio cherry nougat, decadent Christmas fruit cake – whether you're hosting, decorating or gifting this year, these **sweet treats** will help you do all of the above!

## BEFORE & AFTER

### 81 IN GOOD TIME

Over several years, Renae gave her dark and dated **Art Deco two-bedder** a makeover, transforming it into a **light and airy** home complete with a gleaming white kitchen and a fabulous master ensuite with walk-in robe.

### 84 STYLIST CHALLENGE

Lisa's family room was functional, but a little lacklustre in the decor department. Luckily, Super Stylist Jackie made a house call and revamped the space with **\$1000 worth of gorgeous furniture and homewares**.

## MY BACKYARD

### 89 CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINING

Take inspiration from our homeowners' outdoor **festive table settings**.

### 93 INFUSED VINEGAR

Whip up a bottle of **flavoured vinegar** with a range of herbs and fruit – a great Christmas gift.

### 94 GARDEN AND VEGIE PATCH PLANNER

Dale Vine tells you what to sow, maintain and harvest **in the garden this month**.

### 96 HOW TO CREATE A SENSORY GARDEN

Prepare your outdoor space for summer and create a **garden that stimulates all five your senses**. Get the kids involved, too!

## PLUS LOADS MORE

### 8 SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe to **homes+**.

### 100 TRAVEL

Festive events for the family.

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Listen up – it's about ears.

### 104 DECOR TIPS

James Treble gives his advice on decorating the Chrissy tree.

### 106 HOW-TO 101

Set your Christmas table.

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Amazing prizes to be won.

### 109 RENO SOLUTIONS

Cherie Barber shows how to update your home's exterior.

### 111 PETS

Adopt a pet for Christmas.

### 112 STOCKISTS

Where to buy everything.

### 113 SCOTTY'S DIY

Make Scotty's tree ornament.



## READER HOMES

BEACHY HOME  
TESS BEAGLEY

“We are laidback people who enjoy a casual lifestyle so we wanted a home that reflected this easy way of living. This is an attitude we also take with Christmas and Christmas decorating! We like to keep festive decorations and styling simple – a few beautiful decorations, wreaths, garlands here and there and a gorgeous table setting for Christmas day but nothing over the top. Having said that, Christmas time is by far my most favourite time of the year – it’s all about spending quality time with those you love.”

TAKE A LOOK AT TESS’S HOME PG60

## CHRISSY PICK

“One of my fave Christmas buys would be the **Christmas sacks** from Country Road. They are such a sweet addition to any children’s room and have a great practical use for stuffing with pressies!”



\$44.95

CLASSIC HOME  
BRIONY JONES

“We love nothing more than having friends and family over at Christmas. I love sitting by the tree with its twinkling lights and looking at all the decorations we have collected on our travels or have been given as gifts from loved ones. I think when buying anything for your home make sure that it’s something that makes you feel happy when you look at it or use it. We have enough clutter in this world and are better off with less items that mean more and should surround ourselves with things that bring us joy – especially at Christmas!”

DROP IN ON BRIONY PG44

\$44.95



## CHRISSY PICK

“It’s not Christmas in our house without a new Christmas candle burning a welcoming aroma. The **White Christmas candle** from Glasshouse comes in pretty jars that are useful for filling once the candle has burnt out and it has a beautiful scent.”

CONTEMPORARY HOME  
KAHLIA RYAN

“I have learned over the past few years that spending a lot of money on Christmas decorations doesn’t work for me, as I tend to get bored and the style of my house changes so much. It can be easy to get carried away with decorating; my advice is to try and stick with your own style. Christmas trends change so much that you can end up spending an absolute fortune. Try making your own decorations, or using things you wouldn’t normally associate with Christmas; you can save money and ensure your house doesn’t look the same as everyone else’s. After all, what’s the fun in that!”

PEEK INSIDE KAHLIA’S PLACE PG52

\$50



## CHRISSY PICK

“A real **Christmas tree** from AAA Christmas tree farm in Luddenham. I’m definitely a real tree kind of girl! The smell alone is Christmas to me and they look so beautiful that you really don’t need to go overboard with decorations.”





# BUILD YOUR WAY

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2 kg

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**\$74**

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**136 116 and quote M1512HPL**

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# get more out of homes+

( VIDEO, PHOTOS, SHOPPING )



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or Google Play.

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the entire page  
whenever you see  
the **viewa** logo.

**3 ENJOY**  
extra content on your  
smartphone or tablet,  
anywhere you are!



## In this issue

### STEP-BY-STEP PROJECTS

Before you get creating, watch a how-to  
video of all the DIY projects **pg22**  
...and get the templates on **pg26 & pg28**

### SHOP THE PAGE NOW!

Buy a selection of our gorgeous  
Christmas gifts (all \$100 and under!)  
off the page from **pg37**

### MORE FROM THE HOMES

Check out a video of Briony showing  
us her beautiful classic home **pg45**  
...then shop some of her best buys **pg48**  
Shop Kahlia's look off the page **pg56**  
Watch a video of Kahlia showing us  
her contemporary home **pg59**  
See more of Tessa's beachy home **pg62**  
Buy some of Tessa's fave pieces **pg66**

### STYLIST CHALLENGE

Shop the page and see a behind-the-  
scenes video from the photoshoot **pg84**

### ENTER TO WIN!

We have plenty of prizes to be won **pg108**

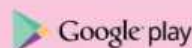
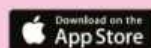
### SCOTTY CAM'S WORKSHOP

Check out Scotty Cam's DIY video **pg113**



### ALL-IN-ONE

Use the free **viewa** app  
to scan this page to go to  
the hub with all the **viewa**  
content for this issue.



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NEW

**Mortein**  
Peaceful  
Nights



## PLUG IN FOR PEACE

A plug in device that keeps mozzies and flies away all night long.



Tamper proof  
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12hrs auto  
shut down



On + off  
button



Odourless





A modern interior scene featuring a white wicker rocking chair, a white wicker hanging chair with purple and grey pillows, and a white wicker armchair. The room has a light pink wall, a white rug, and a white ottoman. Two framed abstract paintings are displayed on the wall. The text "UNITED ART WORKS" is visible in the top left corner.

United Artworks collaborates extensively with designers, interior stylists and property owners seeking contemporary wall art solutions that are not only design driven, but easy on the budget too. **[www.unitedartworks.net](http://www.unitedartworks.net)**

READER EVENT **RENOVATE & DECORATE FOR PROFIT**

# HOMES+ WORKSHOP

Get ready for the **homes+ Renovating & Decorating For Profit** workshop!



**before**

Do you want to  
**RENOVATE YOUR HOME**  
& flip it to make **A PROFIT?**

**after**



*THE LIVING ROOM'S*  
RENO EXPERT  
**Cherie Barber**  
reveals her money-  
making reno secrets.

**IF YOU'RE PLANNING** a home makeover, whether it's a bit of decorating or a full-blown renovation, before you do a thing, book into the **homes+ Renovating & Decorating For Profit** workshop! Our guest speakers include the best in the biz. **Cherie Barber** is the original renovating for profit expert and a personality on TV's *The Living Room*. She's known for her low-budget renovations that create big impacts and make even bigger profits. **James Treble** is another star from *The Living Room* and an interior design and decorating whizz. He knows exactly how to decorate to help increase your home's value when it comes time to sell. **Effie Zahos** is our go-to finance expert. She's the editor of *Money* magazine and has a wealth (ahem) of information to share. There'll be time for questions, refreshments and a fabulous gift to take home. Tickets are limited!



STYLE MASTER  
**James Treble** shares  
his decorating tips  
and style know-how.



MONEY GURU  
**Effie Zahos** reveals  
the tax perks when  
renovating.



## THE DETAILS

### SYDNEY

**Date** Saturday 28th November.

**Time** 9:30am for 10am start.

**Venue** Alexandria Town Hall, 73 Garden Street, Alexandria 2015.

**Tickets** \$150 per person from  
Magshop.com.au/  
homesplusworkshop

### MELBOURNE

**Date** Saturday 12th December.

**Time** 9:30am for 10am start.

**Venue** Grey Gardens,  
51 Victoria Street, Fitzroy 3065.

**Tickets** \$150 per person from  
Magshop.com.au/  
homesplusworkshop

**TICKET  
PRICE  
\$150**

**TICKETS**

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RUSTIC BAUBLE  
Vinter 2015  
**decoration**, \$8.99  
for set of three,  
from Ikea.

**TREE LIGHTS**  
Instead of shoving Christmas string lights into a box or wrapping them around a piece of cardboard only to have them slip off, try this: starting between your thumb and forefinger, wrap the string lights down around your elbow and back up between your thumb and forefinger. Repeat until you've looped the entire length of lights, then secure at regular intervals with wire twist ties (get them at Bunnings). You'll end up with a neat wreath shape that's easy to store.

## HANDY HINTS

# HOME SHORTCUTS

Here, we share all the clever tips and tricks to a happier, more efficient home – to **make your life easier**.

AFTER CHRISTMAS PRESENTS HAVE BEEN UNWRAPPED, **GATHER THE WRAPPING PAPER, RIBBONS AND TIES** – AS WELL AS ANY EMPTY GIFTBOXES – AND STORE THE PAPER AND TIES IN THE BOXES TO USE AGAIN NEXT YEAR. ▶

## SUMMER FUN

To prepare your musty old **canvas umbrella** for summer, give it a light dry brush to loosen any dirt and mould, then, using the same brush, wash with a mild soap-and-water solution. Leave it in the sun to dry completely. If the frame is metal, squirt a little WD40 on the joints, and if it's wood, give it a rub with some timber oil or wax. Do this once a year and it'll last ages!



Don't discard old Christmas cards. Cut out the pictures or the text on the front and turn them into gift tags next year. The rest of the card can be recycled.

## SHINE ON

You don't need chemicals or expensive cleaning products to get cutlery, jewellery or any silver object shiny – you only need a toothbrush and toothpaste! Simply brush the object with a little bit of paste, then thoroughly rinse with cold water. It works!

## CHRISTMAS BAKING

Bake cookies in Christmas shapes and wrap in cellophane to give as gifts for party hosts, Secret Santa and your kids' teachers. They'll appreciate the thoughtful homemade touch.

## WHERE DO ALL THE SOCKS GO AFTER WASHING?

Avoid the sole-survivor sock phenomenon and pair socks together before putting them into the washing machine. Fold one sock into the other and pull the opening of the outer sock over it like a hood. No more stray socks!



## ON A ROLL

Cut a toilet roll into three to make cute napkin rings for a natural-style table setting – it looks just like kraft paper! You can tie a ribbon around each one to contrast, if you like. Just don't tell anyone what their previous use was. H•





### STYLISH LIVING

Use the free **viewa** app and scan this page to explore & shop the latest trends from My House.

### TEAL TIME

Add hits of teal and soft blue with a beachy style Dipped wooden **clock**, \$49.95; printed Flamingo **cushion**, \$49.95 and the gemstone-look Lennon **table lamp**, \$59.95.

# MY GEO-POP DREAM

Reimagine your bedroom with this season's dreamy sorbet hues, fun geometrics and sweet accessories.

Clean mid-century lines, cool prints and soft retro shades are back, and you don't have to spend big to get in on the style trend. Create a smart, restful look and refresh your bedroom with these pieces.

## CONNECT WITH US

[myhouse.com.au](http://myhouse.com.au)

[myhouseaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/myhouseaustralia)

[myhouseau](https://www.facebook.com/myhouseau)

**MyHouse**  
Est. 1956

### SUMMER FUN

Soft pink and blue make for a pretty duo. Try this combo: Atomic **coverlet set**, \$279.95; Tile Print **frame**, \$29.95; Dane **cushion** in Melon, \$39.95 and Artica **cushion** in Sea Blue, \$49.95.

UNDER  
\$200

### SWEET SENSATION

Scent your space with something from the MiCasa **aroma collection** in Rose Gold, from \$29.95 each, and decorate with the Lovely **LOVE sculpture**, \$24.95.

REVIVE  
your bedroom  
with dreamy  
accents  
for under  
\$200

### MODERN STYLING

Create interest with the Coral washed **frame**, \$29.95 and Copper Geo-Tipped **tea light**, \$29.95; warmth with the Emily **throw** in Pink, \$79.95 and retro cool with the Marina Oak **chair**, \$799.95 and **footstool**, \$199.95.



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# ARE YOU THE NEXT **homes+** **RENOVATOR**

## OF THE YEAR?

Hey, homeowners and renters! Have you just done a little refresh or a full-blown reno?

**You could win amazing prizes!**

All you have to do is tell us your story and include before and after photos of your project. It's that easy!



### HOW TO ENTER

**GO TO** [Homestolove.com.au/competitions](http://Homestolove.com.au/competitions) for all the details on how to enter and category requirements.

### HOW TO TAKE GREAT PHOTOS

Put aside some time to **do a test shoot**. This will help you figure out the time of day that has the best lighting for your room. It may seem obvious, but for the "after" shots, make sure you clean up any clutter. Set your camera on the largest file size setting and **don't use a flash**. Take both vignettes (a nice arrangement) and full-room shots. Tweak the positioning of furniture and accessories, **take your time** and keep snapping until you've captured your space as you see it. Good luck!

### THE JUDGING

**homes+** editor-in-chief Deborah Bibby will judge the competition along with a panel of experts.

### THE CATEGORIES

Get ready to show off – we want to see all your projects!



**KITCHENS**



**BATHROOMS**



**LIVING AREAS**



**DINING AREAS**



**OUTDOOR SPACES**



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# SPOTLIGHT

Bargains  
Galore!



**Bouclair  
HOME**





# PRACTICAL IDEAS

( AFFORDABLE, EASY, DOABLE )

**7 VERY  
MERRY  
XMAS  
IDEAS!**

## **Pretty packages**

Create a different type of advent calendar with cute paper gems.

## **Word up**

Customise your walls with words and colours to suit your decor and festive theme.

## **That's a wrap**

Buy balls of multicoloured yarn and get the whole family in on this fun and simple star craft.

**THIS MONTH** DIY DECORATING IDEAS FOR THE SILLY SEASON



MAKE IT YOURSELF

# STEP-BY-STEP DECOR IDEAS

Add a **personal touch** to your **Christmas decorations** this year with these DIY projects.

**\$106.51**

## ADVENT CALENDAR

This super-cute Christmas countdown can be customised to suit all ages: try toys or lollies for the kids, or little liqueur chocolates for the grown-ups.

**STEP ONE** Attach adhesive numerals to the fronts of the paper lolly bags, numbering them 1 to 24.

**STEP TWO** Fill each bag with treats, such as chocolates, and confetti.

**STEP THREE** Fold over tops to enclose the surprises inside.

**STEP FOUR** Cut pieces of kitchen string long enough to wrap around each paper parcel and tie in a bow.

**STEP FIVE** Tie string around each parcel to look like a gift-wrapped present.

**STEP SIX** Use superglue to adhere the back of a thumbtack to the top of a wooden peg. Repeat with remaining tacks and pegs. Leave to dry completely.

**STEP SEVEN** Attach each peg to the top of a paper parcel, with the thumbtack to the back.

**STEP EIGHT** Push the thumbtacks into the pinboard, ordering the bags 1 to 24 from left to right in a grid pattern, to create your advent calendar. »

**IN THE PICTURE** Älmsta **chair** in Black, \$125, and Ludde **sheepskin** in White, from Ikea. Mini Star **light** in Black, \$99, from Love Struck Homewares. **FOR PROJECT** Quill Poster Board vinyl **stickers** in Black, \$7.49 per packet, and Esselte **drawing pins** in White, \$4.62 for 100, from Officeworks. Paper **lolly bags**, \$3.40 for 12, coloured cardboard **confetti**, \$1.99, and wooden spring **pegs**, \$1.99 for 50, from eBay. Cadbury Dairy Milk Freddo **chocolates**, \$4.59 for 15 pack, Ferrero Rocher **chocolates**, \$12.50 for 16-pack, and Home Essentials cooking **twine**, \$5.50, from Woolworths. Acoustic **pinboard** (80cm x 60cm x 9mm), \$24, from Bunnings.



### HOW-TO VIDEO

Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page and see the step-by-step videos for making these cool projects.



PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES HENRY STYLING CORINA KOCH & FIONA MICHELON  
STYLING ASSISTANT KELLY CLAUDIUS & BRONTE PIEPER

**DIFFICULTY RATING CHART** > EASY AS 1, 2, 3 >> A BIT HARDER >>> GET A FRIEND TO HELP YOU

**YOU WILL NEED** Adhesive numerals; paper lolly bags; treats, such as chocolates, and confetti; scissors; kitchen string; superglue; thumbtacks; wooden pegs; pinboard



**Numbers game**

You'll need seven packs of these stickers. Save the extra letters and numerals for other craft projects.





**YOU WILL NEED** Scissors; words printed in large scale; foamcore; pencil; cutting mat or cardboard; sharp utility knife; paper or newspaper; paint; small paintbrush; double-sided mounting tape

**Chrissy colour**  
Red, green, gold?  
We used Dulux  
"Mint Twist" to  
paint our words.



**\$21.80**

## FOAMCORE LETTERING ✂

There's plenty to love about this Christmas craft idea. Choose words that represent the Yuletide spirit, then paint to suit your theme. Update next year with new hues, if you like.

**STEP ONE** Using the scissors, carefully cut out the letters to make your word.

**STEP TWO** Place letters on the foamcore and, using the pencil, trace around the inside and outside edges of the letters.

**STEP THREE** Place the foamcore on the cutting mat and use the knife to carefully cut out the letters.

**STEP FOUR** Transfer letters to a piece of paper or newspaper on a work surface. Paint the letters in a colour of your choice.

**STEP FIVE** Leave to dry completely before fixing to the wall with double-sided tape.

**IN THE PICTURE** Milk & Sugar "Finn" concrete **pendant** light in Slate, \$99, from Life Interiors. Sorrento **desk**, \$176, X A5 Kraft **notebook**, \$1.99, X **pen cup** in Kraft 5, J.Burrows pressboard **binder** in Navy, \$3.99, and assorted **pencils**, from Officeworks. Paper **ornament**, similar available from David Jones. Hans **vessel** in Aqua, small, \$12.95, from Domayne. Be Brave **mug** in Blue, \$14.95, from Kikki K. Felt **ribbon** in White, \$11 for 5m, from The Woodsfolk. Idolf **chair**, \$75, from Ikea. Chevron **throw** in Charcoal, \$14, from Kmart. **FOR PROJECT** White core **foamboard** (5mm), A2, \$9.05, from Eckersley's Art & Craft. Dulux low-sheen **paint** sample pot in Mint Twist, \$12.75 for 500ml, from Bunnings. X-Press It Foam **double-sided tape**, \$5.48 for 12mm x 4m, Officeworks.

**On point**

Make half a dozen trees, then paint and group them for a striking centrepiece.

**YOU WILL NEED**

Cardboard; scissors; masking tape; bucket; spatula; old glass jar; cement mix; fine sandpaper; paints; paintbrush



**\$20.45 FOR 8**

## CONCRETE CHRISSY TREES 🎄🎄

For classic decorations that will go the distance, you can't go past concrete cones. Use them as the focal point of a modern Christmas table arrangement.

**STEP ONE** Roll the cardboard into a cone shape. Cut away excess card and secure on outside with masking tape.

**STEP TWO** Wrap additional tape around the tip of the cone to ensure it is watertight.

**STEP THREE** Prepare cement according to the packet directions. Scoop cement into the cardboard cone. Tap slightly to remove air bubbles.

**STEP FOUR** Stand cone in a sturdy old glass jar to completely set.

**STEP FIVE** When concrete is set, remove cardboard. Lightly sand to smooth the surface, then wipe to remove any dust.

**STEP SIX** To decorate, use masking tape to section the cones, and paint in your choice of colours. Leave to dry before displaying. ➤

**IN THE PICTURE** Oakland 160-260 extension dining table in White, \$1059, and Parker wooden dining chair in Light Grey & Oak, \$249, from Life Interiors. Ikea 365+ tea towel in White, \$3.99 for 2, from Ikea. Bottle vase (31cm), \$49.95, and Bliss flute in Gold, \$49.95 for 4, from Freedom. Large brass tray, \$99, from Zakkia. Small wooden Christmas tree, \$12.95, from Kikki K.

**FOR PROJECT** Colorline 220gsm A3 coloured card, \$1.70, from Eckersley's Art & Craft. Australian Builders Home Handypac cement mix, \$6 for 3kg, from Bunnings. Dulux low-sheen paint sample pots, \$12.75 for 500ml, from Bunnings.





  @homesplusmag

We'd love to see your completed DIY projects! Tag us and include the hashtag #homesplusDIY on Instagram or Facebook so we can take a look.

**\$30.28**

## ADVENT GEM ORNAMENTS

These paper ornaments double as a fun way to countdown the days to Christmas. Fill with little gifts or treats to enjoy all through December!

**STEP ONE** Print the gem templates onto coloured paper of your choice. Using the scissors, carefully cut around the outline.

**STEP TWO** Fold the template along the dotted lines.

**STEP THREE** Use the hot-glue gun to adhere the small side folds to the inside of the shape, to create a paper gem.

**STEP FOUR** Before glueing the final side and completing the shape, fill with a small gift, such as jewellery, lollies or chocolates.

**STEP FIVE** Squeeze a small amount of glue onto the end of a piece of twine. Insert this into the last open side of the gem, then glue completely closed. Set aside to dry.

**STEP SIX** Place the coin on a piece of paper and trace around it with the pencil 24 times. Cut each one out neatly using scissors.

**STEP SEVEN** Use the black marker to label circle with a number from 1 to 24.

**STEP EIGHT** Use a thick needle to pierce with a hole. Thread onto the twine attached to the paper gem. ➤



### GET THE TEMPLATE

Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page and get the gem template.

**IN THE PICTURE** Dulux Wash & Wear **paint** in Tin Cat (on wall), \$45.90 for 1L. Studio 2.5-seat **sofa** in Arena Neptune, \$999, and Stockholm **coffee table** in Oak/White, \$269, from Freedom. Aura Moss Stitch **cushion** in Grey Marle, \$59.95, from Domayne. Milk & Sugar "Small Triangle" **cushion** in Mint, \$50, from Life Interiors. **FOR PROJECT** Vivaldi 120gsm coloured **paper**, 65c per sheet, Eckersley's Art & Craft. Home Essentials cooking **twine**, \$5.50, from Woolworths. Gold **chain** from jeweller.



**YOU WILL NEED**

Gem templates; quality coloured A4 paper; scissors; hot-glue gun; jewellery, lollies, chocolates or other small gifts; twine; coin; pencil; black marker; thick needle

**Day by day**

Make extra gems and leave them empty, so your display doesn't disappear before the big day.



### Wood you?

The kids will love hunting for sticks and branches in the yard or park.

### IN THE PICTURE

Sala **sideboard** in Natural Oak, \$975, from Clickon Furniture. Sockerart 22cm **vase** in White, \$14.99, from Ikea. Round Bijoux **box** in Navy, \$22, and Mini Thin **vase** in Ice, \$12, from Have You Met Miss Jones. Little Lamb felt **garland** in White, \$39, from The Woodsfolk. Classic Panama **hat** in Natural, \$14.95, and Classic **tote** in Navy/Cream Stripe, \$24.95, from Cotton On. **FOR PROJECT** Dressed **pine** sheet (18.4cm x 1.9cm x 1.2m), \$10.20, and Selleys 8ml Araldite 90 Seconds epoxy **adhesive** \$9.36, from Bunnings. Bare **branches** from the garden.



**\$19.56**

## DECORATIVE ANTLERS

Cute and quirky for the Christmas wall.

**STEP ONE** Print the shield-shaped template and use scissors to cut out. Place on the plywood and trace around.

**STEP TWO** Clamp the ply to a work bench and use the jigsaw to cut out the shape. Lightly sand to soften edges and smooth surface. Wipe away dust.

**STEP THREE** On the back of the shield, mark two positions in the top corners to insert screws. To ensure you only drill to the depth of the screw, hold the screw against the top of the drill bit, then wrap masking tape around the base of the bit. Pre-drill two holes. Drill in screws until three-quarters inserted. Use the exposed screws to hang with wire.

**STEP FOUR** Trim the ends of the sticks to 45-degree angles and sand ends.

**STEP FIVE** Prepare Araldite to packet directions. Adhere the largest sticks to the shield – apply Araldite to stick and shield, then hold in place until set. Wait for it to bond before adding more sticks.

### GET THE TEMPLATE

Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page and get the shield template.

### YOU WILL NEED

Shield template; scissors; plywood; clamps; jigsaw; sandpaper; pencil; small screws; masking tape; picture-hanging wire branches; Araldite adhesive



**YOU WILL NEED** Baking paper; modelling clay; glass bottle; Christmas-themed cookie cutters; plastic straw; coloured markers; scissors; kitchen string

**Wish upon a star**  
Star and dove shapes look great, as do snowmen, angels, bells and reindeer!

**\$11.50**

## CLAY ORNAMENTS

Create a set of ornaments that will last year after year. Personalise with colours and patterns, or the names of family and friends – they make lovely gifts, too.

**STEP ONE** Lay a sheet of baking paper on a work surface. Shape a piece of clay into a ball and place on the paper.

**STEP TWO** Using a glass bottle or large tumbler, roll clay into a flat piece, about 5mm thick.

**STEP THREE** Using a cookie cutter, cut out a shape from the clay. Pull away any excess from around the cutter.

**STEP FOUR** Use a straw to pierce a hole in tops of each shape. Dry shapes according to the packet directions.

**STEP FIVE** When the ornaments are dry, use coloured markers to decorate.

**STEP SIX** Cut pieces of kitchen string and thread through hole in ornament. Tie ends together to form a loop. Snip away the loose ends, and hang. ➤

**IN THE PICTURE** Shibori “Diamonds” wallpaper, \$195 for 61.5cm x 10m roll, from Milton & King. Little Lamb felt garland in White, \$39, from The Woodsfolk.

**FOR PROJECT** Das Air Dry Clay in White, \$11.50 for 500g, from Eckersley’s Art & Craft.





**YOU WILL NEED**

Ruler; pencil;  
foamcore board  
or thick cardboard;  
scissors; coloured  
yarn; sticky tape;  
hot-glue gun

**Cool yule**

Multicoloured yarn  
is a great choice for  
this project. Find it  
at craft stores.

**\$20.04****YARN STAR**

This project is an easy one that delivers impressive results. Try it in different sizes and colours, and repeat the star theme throughout your home to create a striking Christmas look that's super easy to pull together.

**STEP ONE** Using a ruler and pencil, mark out a star shape on the foamcore board. Cut out.

**STEP TWO** Attach the end of the yarn to the star with a piece of sticky tape.

**STEP THREE** Start wrapping the yarn around the star.

**STEP FOUR** When you reach an odd

angle, use the hot-glue gun to secure the yarn (you will need to do this frequently around the corners), then continue wrapping.

**STEP FIVE** When the star is completely wrapped in yarn, snip the end and tuck it under, securing to the foamcore board with a piece of sticky tape. **H+**

**IN THE PICTURE** Sixties **buffet** in Natural, \$1299, from Freedom. Rachel Kennedy Designs **giftwrap**, \$5.95 per sheet, and Vadoros Eco **ribbon** in Teal, \$1 per metre, from Little Paper Lane. Cone Glass and Noel Star **decorations** in Silver, \$8.95 each, from Country Road. Gemma Deco **object** 20cm in Blue, \$9.95, Freedom. Sitting **vase** in Blue, \$9.99, from Ikea. **FOR PROJECT** White core **foamboard** (5mm), A2, \$9.05, from Eckersley's Art & Craft. Panda B.I.G **yarn**, \$10.99, from Lincraft.







# WHERE THERE'S ONE THERE'S MORE



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\*Includes Mortein Kill & Protect DIY 2L inside only, Mortein Kill & Protect Indoor Surface Spray.



EXPERT ADVICE

# TROPICAL DREAM

Stylist Jackie Brown shows us how to enjoy the warmer weather and make the most of outdoor spaces this summer with a little help from **Super Amart**

Jackie Brown

*"I love to bring a bit of greenery to any space, indoors or out, by decorating with plants and trees."*

UNDER  
\$50

UNDER  
\$100

homes+  
**SMART  
STYLING**  
with Super Amart

1. Bamboo Nitilda **tree**, \$189. 2. Yucca **plant** (60cm), \$69.95. 3. Joy Outside **sun chair** in Green, \$49. 4. Rainforest **cushion**, \$29.95. 5. Granada **hanging chair**, \$299. 6. Sunny **grass bowl**, \$99.95. 7. Mediterranean 4-piece **lounge** setting, \$1799.

#### COOL WATER

Taubmans Endure Exterior  
semi-gloss paint in  
**Lagoon Teal.**

#### SUN IS SHINING

Murobond Murowash  
mineral flat paint in  
**Spice.**

#### NICE & EASY

Haymes Solashield  
satin paint in  
**Eclipse.**

#### NATURE'S CALLING

Dulux Weathershield  
low-sheen acrylic paint in  
**Rainforest Glow.**





**AN INVITING OUTDOOR SPACE** begins with comfy seating and all of the same things you'd find in your living room. It's all about bringing the indoors outside, so you can enjoy the weather, relax, eat, entertain and live outdoors in the summer sunshine. Here's how you can create a tropical-style outdoor haven at home.

**STEP ONE** Jackie starts with the perfect outdoor lounge. It needs to not only be comfortable, but also weather-resistant, durable and suitable for the climate. Choose a high-quality setting that will resist fading and is easy to clean. Woven materials are a popular option.

**STEP TWO** Depending on the room you have available, you can now add other furniture, such as matching armchairs or garden chairs, coffee tables or side tables or a couple of smaller side tables if space is at premium. Try to stick to the same woven textures or pieces that have the look of natural materials such as cane or timber.

**STEP THREE** It's time to accessorise! Jackie adds a large outdoor rug and cushions to make the space more welcoming and, in order to get that tropical feel, has chosen accessories in natural shades of green and added plenty of potted plants to finish off the look.



### JACKIE'S TIPS

- Want a more beachy feel? Add hits of teal and turquoise accessories to the green accessories.
- You can make your own outdoor cushions easily with treated fabrics, such as waxed canvas. It's still a good idea to dry them thoroughly in the sun when you can and bring them in from the elements where possible.
- A large, lipped tray will come in handy for serving drinks and for holding things like vases, mags, sunglasses etc.





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\*Subject to suitability assessment and credit approved applicants on a Lombard 180 Card. #The indicative daily payment shown translates to \$257.97 per month and is based on the Fujitsu Ducted Air Conditioning system priced at \$8,500 (including delivery and installation). In this instance, the indicative monthly repayment is less than the contractual Minimum Monthly Payment (MMP), which is the greater of 3% of the outstanding balance or \$30. Therefore the indicative monthly repayment reverts to the MMP. The MMP will continue to decrease each month as the outstanding balance decreases and therefore, paying only the MMP over the entire interest free term would not repay the purchase price within the interest free term. The MMP includes the \$99 Annual Fee, charged on the account open date and annually on the anniversary of the account open date. The Annual Fee needs to be paid in full within the 55 day Interest Free term as part of the first repayment to avoid interest charges. The indicative monthly repayment assumes no additional purchases, cash withdrawals, fees or charges are incurred. Interest, currently at 22.99% p.a., is payable on any balance outstanding after the interest free term. Terms, conditions, fees and charges apply and are available on request. Credit provided by Lombard Finance Pty Limited ABN 31 099 651 877, Australian Credit Licence number 247415. Lombard® is brought to you by FlexiGroup® Offer valid 1 November 2015 to 31 January 2016.



# BARGAIN BUYS

# SHOPPING

( FAB FINDS TO SUIT YOUR STYLE )

## Happy shopping!

We've found heaps of gorgeous gifts for all the family. From cool homewares, like this funky outdoor cushion and gold candle, to fun finds such as the quirky pink deer decoration.

## FESTIVE FINDS

The Holiday **tote** in Natural Woven, \$19.95, from Rubi. Morgan & Finch "Panama" outdoor **cushion** (50cm), \$29.95, from Bed, Bath N' Table. Christmas **crackers**, \$19.99 for 6-pack, from Typo. Samspelt **deer decoration** in Pink, \$19.99, from Ikea. Amina **candle** in Gold, \$19.95, from Freedom. >

**XMAS  
GIFT  
GUIDE**  
**PRESSIES UNDER  
\$30/\$50/\$100**

**THIS MONTH** FABULOUS (& AFFORDABLE!) CHRISSY GIFTS FOR HIM, HER & THE KIDS!



## gifts under \$30

HIS



**WINE O'CLOCK!**  
Bottled Up wine accessories  
**gift pack**, \$19.99, from Typo.



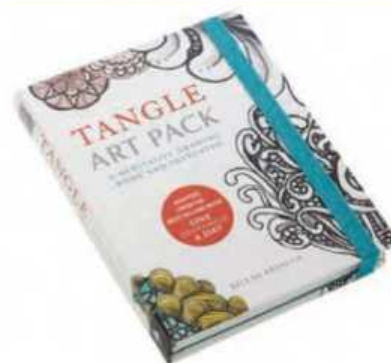
**RECORD RHINO**  
Rhino upcycled vinyl record **wall hanging**, \$29, from Vinyl Cuts.

HERS



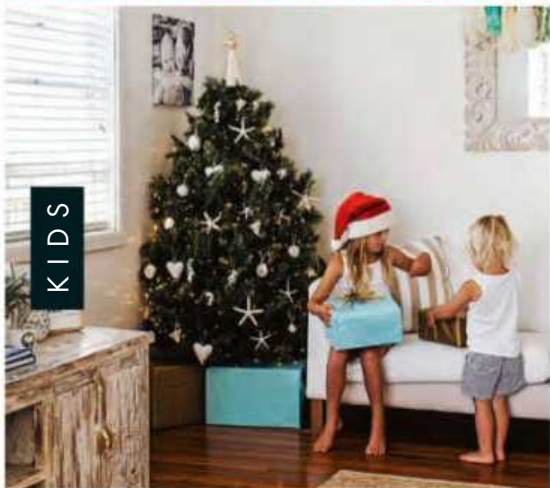
**BEST  
BUY  
\$29.95**

**MINIMAL DESIGN**  
Cocoon small **hurricane** in Grey,  
\$29.95, from Country Road.



**INNER ARTIST**  
Tangle Art Pack **drawing book & sketchpad**,  
\$24.95, from Murdoch Books.

KIDS



**BRIGHT BUY**  
Pinwheel small **vase** (24cm),  
\$24.95, from Super Amart.



**KIDS LOVE COOKIES!**  
Davis & Waddell "Oh What Fun"  
**cookie baking set**, \$19.99.

FAMILY



**SNAZZY SERVERS**  
Ziggy melamine **salad servers**, \$19.95, from Mozi.

**BEST  
BUY  
\$19**



**BEACH FUN**  
Wahu Beach **footy**, \$19, from  
Harveynorman.com.au





**BEST  
BUY**  
**\$19.95**

**GREAT GADGET**  
Essential 15-piece **tool set**, \$19.95,  
from Mr Gift.



**"H" IS FOR HIS**  
Scrabble ceramic **mug** in letter H,  
\$16, from Peter's Of Kensington.



**WELL GROOMED**  
Black Peppercorn Cracker **mini men's  
essentials**, \$30, from Molton Brown.



**BRANCH OUT**  
A4 **jewellery tree** in Kauri,  
\$29.95, from Until.com.au



**POUTY PLANT**  
Face **planter**, \$19.99 for  
small, from Typo.

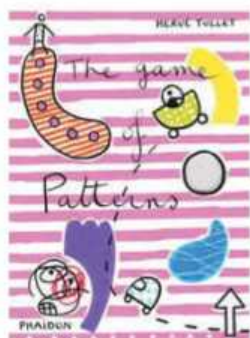


**PUNCHY PINK**  
Pantone bone china **espresso cup**  
in Pink, \$14.95, from Zanui.



**WANT  
MORE?**

Use the free  
**viewa** app  
to scan this  
page to buy  
selected  
products for  
\$30 and under!



**FUN LEARNING**  
*The Game Of Patterns* **book** by Hervé  
Tullet, \$9.95, from Until.com.au



**BEST  
BUY**  
**\$12.95**

**RAD ROBOT**  
Hardwood Cubeot **toy** in Multi  
(10.8cm), \$12.95, from Until.com.au



**CUTE TO CARRY**  
**Backpacks**: Tech in Navy, \$25, and  
Girls in Fuchsia, \$10, from Target.



**LOUNGE LOVERS**  
Ikea PS Vågå outdoor **easy chair**  
in Green, \$39.99, from Ikea.



**STOCKING STUFFER**  
Games To Go handmade Glittery wooden  
memory **game**, \$25, from Etsy.com.au



**PRETTY POT**  
Tweed outdoor **pot** in Seaglass, \$20,  
from Have You Met Miss Jones. ➤



## gifts under \$50



HIS



**BEST  
BUY  
\$45**

**DAD'S TIPPLE**  
Glen Moray "Classic Scotch Whisky Glasses"  
**gift pack**, \$44.99, from Dan Murphy's.



**COOL STRIPES**  
Mark Tuckey + Cotton On **beach towel** in  
Charcoal Stripe, \$49.95, from Cotton On.



HERS



**WISE WORDS**  
Kate Spade "Wit & Wisdom"  
**journal**, \$46.95, from Outliving.



**SKIN SMOOTHERS**  
Mandarin & Rosemary Leaf **body exfoliant and  
body cream set**, \$39.95, from Grown Alchemist.



KIDS



**BUSY BEE**  
Seedling "Good Things For Busy People"  
**activity kit**, \$36.50, from No Chintz.



**SNUGGLY BUNNY**  
Areaware "Fauna Pico Bunny" **cushion**  
in Pink, \$34.95, from Until.com.au



FAMILY



**COLOUR POP**  
Pop collection Dark wall **clock** in  
White (25cm), \$49.95, from Zanui.



**PANCAKES, ANYONE?**  
Kambrook "Pancake Perfect" **breakfast skillet**,  
\$39.95. Includes 3 heat-resistant silicone rings.





**LOUD COLOURS**  
Logitech "X50" mobile wireless **speakers**, \$49.95 each.



**GOOD OL' DAYS!**  
*Old Timers* **book** by David Darcy, \$35, from Murdoch Books.



**BARBIE TIME**  
Matador 3-piece **BBQ tool set**, \$33.90, from Bunnings.



**SMART SOCKS**  
Silverdale **socks** in Sea, \$49 for 3-pack, from Rodd & Gunn.



**YUMMY SCENT**  
Glasshouse Fragrances "Venice" **candle** in Peach Bellini, \$42.95.



**A SWEET GIFT**  
*Love, Aimee x* **recipe book** by Aimee Twigger, \$39.99, from Murdoch Books.



**FRESH AIR**  
Patchouli & Bergamot **diffuser**, \$39.95, from Peppermint Grove Australia.



**HERO HOMEWARES**  
Superman marquee **light**, \$49.99, from Typo.



**BEACHY BRIGHTS**  
Sally Kids **beach towel**, \$44.95, from Country Road.



**STACK & PLAY**  
Safari Jumble wooden **puzzle**, \$49.95, from All Wrapped Up.



**RETRO FLAVOUR**  
Round melamine **platter** in Viva (40cm), \$49.95, from Until.com.au



**FANCY FRILL**  
Mark Tuckey + Cotton On Circus Tassel **cushion**, \$39.95, from Cotton On.



**SUMMER DRINKS**  
Avanti 5.7L metal-based glass beverage **dispenser**, \$44, from Harvey Norman. ➤



**WANT MORE?**  
Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page to buy selected products for \$50 and under!



## gifts under \$100



HIS



**TOP TOOL**  
Victorinox "EvoWood 17" **Swiss army knife**, \$74, from Peter's Of Kensington.



**COOL STUFF**  
Life! "Tinny Retro Tin" **cooler**, \$59.95, from Big W.



HERS



**FLORAL FRAGRANCE**  
Miu Miu **Eau de Parfum**, \$90 for 30ml, from Myer.



**A FOODIE FAVE**  
Tefal Snack Collection **sandwich & waffle maker**, \$99.95, from department stores.



KIDS



**FUN & GAMES**  
6-in-1 **games compendium**, \$89.95, from Laura Ashley.



**SUPER LIGHT**  
Superman Comic Strip **desk lamp**, \$39.99, from Popcultcha.com.au



FAMILY



**RECLINE & RELAX**  
Capri Stripe **deck chair**, \$69, from Target.



**PRETTY PIECE**  
Palm Leaf hand-painted small **bowl**, \$62, from Have You Met Miss Jones.





GEEKY GIFT  
K380 Multi-Device Bluetooth **keyboard**, \$69.95, from Logitech.



DIY DAD  
Bosch 3.6V IXO V cordless **screwdriver**, \$59, from Bunnings.



MUSIC MAN  
Philips "SHC5100" over-the-ear wireless **headphones**, \$79, from The Good Guys.



SIMPLE STYLE  
Adler Certificate **frame** (36cm x 31cm), \$59.95, from Country Road.



PAMPER PACK  
Best Of Clinique boxed **gift pack**, \$60, from Clinique.



PLASTIC FANTASTIC  
Tobias **chair** in Lilac, \$100, from Ikea.



**WANT MORE?**  
Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page to buy selected products for \$100 and under!



DINKY DESK  
Sundvik children's **desk** in Grey/Brown (58cm x 45cm), \$79, from Ikea.



MINI MUSO  
Electric **guitar amplifier set** in Pink, \$69.99, from Toys R Us.



BUILD IT!  
Lego "Classic" Large Creative **brick box**, \$69.99, from Just Bricks.



FRUITY FUN  
Giant Watermelon **inflatable**, \$59.95, from Rubi.



BOLD BROLLY  
Beach **umbrella** in Rockingham, \$99.95, from SunnyLife. **H+**

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# READERS' HOMES

( REAL PEOPLE, REAL STYLE )

## CONTEMPORARY



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WIN \$1000  
SEE HOW ON  
PAGE 112**

## BEACHY



## CLASSIC



**THIS MONTH** HOMES DECKED OUT FOR CHRISTMAS, AUSSIE-STYLE



CLASSIC HOME BRIONY JONES

# “THIS HOUSE IS AN ENTERTAINER’S DELIGHT”

Briony decorates her  
newly renovated home  
with **timeless pieces**  
for Christmas.

#### Oh, Christmas tree!

The tree decorations are  
from the family’s travels, and  
Briony’s parents also like to  
buy decorations as gifts.





### VIRTUAL TOUR

Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page to watch a video tour of Briony's classic home.

### KITCHEN

#### Social scene

Briony's open-plan kitchen by Freedom is ideal for entertaining and family gatherings.

#### Dramatic entrance

The front door is painted in Resene "Cosmonaut".

### DETAIL

#### BRIONY JONES HAS A DREAM

to buy a hotel one day and live in it. It's an idea that sounds very Hollywood, but then so is her style. With husband Cameron, she's already onto her third renovation and there seems to be no stopping her. In her Warrawee home on Sydney's Upper North Shore, Briony has used her signature old Hollywood style to create a place that's not only glamorous, but also practical and cosy for her three gorgeous daughters Paris, Scarlett and Ivy.

#### MOVING ON UP

As seasoned renovators, Briony and Cameron didn't mess around when they bought this 1970s home four years ago and they completed all the major work within six months. "We were looking for a new project to renovate and this house was in a great area and had solid bones," Briony says. "It was very dated so we stripped out everything, knocked a few walls down, put walls up, extended the front of the home and added a home office. We also landscaped the gardens and added a pool. I love our home!"

When the couple carried out the renovations they had a vision to create somewhere to house a large family who enjoy entertaining. "Starting with a strong concept gives you a guide to keep coming back to during the renovating process so that everything feels consistent and creates a smooth transition," Briony explains. >

### TIP

Pendant lights help to define zones in open-plan spaces.

## [5] decor tips

**ONE** Always pick items that you fall in love with. Don't buy on impulse. If you're unsure about a certain piece go home and think about it for a night and do some research online.

**TWO** Don't rush when it comes to decorating. Create a solid concept as a reference point when designing and sourcing for the home.

**THREE** Look for inspiration – go online and read blogs, follow inspirational accounts on Instagram or check out books and mags.

**FOUR** Get outside and be inspired by nature. The greatest colour and texture combinations are just outside your door.

**FIVE** Start with everything that could work in the space, then edit.





## stocking SURPRISES

**NICELY KNITTED**  
Traditional knitted  
**stocking** with stripe  
cuff in Red/White,  
\$29.95, from  
Bed Bath N' Table.



**SANTA STYLE**  
Christmas Santa  
**stocking**, \$15,  
from Target.

### Deco dream

Briony adds a touch of  
Hollywood glam with  
a mirror from Freedom  
and chandelier from  
One World Collection.

## LIVING ROOM



## TRY IT: CHRISTMAS TOUCHES



**Wooden nutcrackers**  
Go for a traditional look  
with timber ornaments.



**Silver reindeer**  
Display statement decorations  
on a shelf or mantelpiece.



**A little sparkle**  
Add festive cheer with fun,  
glittery accessories.



**Golden idea**  
Create focal points in each  
room with a hint of metallic.



## SUPER STYLING

A traditionalist at heart, Briony likes to mix it up with the odd modern element to balance the look. She also loves to decorate with her collection of vases and glasses.

"A well-designed vase and glass can look just as good empty as it does filled – although it is a treat to have good Champagne and fresh flowers in the house," says Briony, who also tries to steer clear of clutter, without being too minimalist. "I learnt from this renovation not to buy just to fill a void or empty space, but buy when you see something you love, that you're still thinking about days later."

Briony has a thing for buying lights, wallpaper and window coverings. Every room showcases spectacular light fixtures and she has used a mix of either curtains or Roman blinds for the windows. She also likes to shop for homewares at West Elm, Domayne, Ikea, Pottery Barn and Freedom, not to mention picking up a few bargains from Kmart, Target and Big W. Many of Briony's Christmas decorations are from David Jones, which suit her traditional style. >

## DINING ROOM

### Puppy power

A magnificent bulldog artwork from Domayne gives dinner guests a great talking point.



## LIVING ROOM

### Making music

The piano was saved from a house nearby that was being demolished.



## MEET BRIONY

**About me** My name is Briony and I live here with my husband Cameron and our three daughters Paris, 12, Scarlett, eight, and Ivy, three, and spoodle Bo Jangles.

**Reno tip** Enjoy the madness, chaos and luxury of being able to renovate and create your own home or space. It's a luxury that not many people get to experience.





## LIVING

### Room for all

An Ikea sofa and kid/dog-friendly rug make for a cosy living space that flows into the outdoor area.



## STUDY

### Family favourite

Briony's desk was once her father-in-law's. She repainted it and added new handles.



## DETAIL

### On display

The office bookshelves were painted with Dulux "Antique White USA".

## FAMILY LIFE

"This house is an entertainer's delight and we love nothing more than having friends and family over, especially over Christmas," Briony says. Her favourite space in the home is the family room. "It's such an easy room for us all to chill out in together – we eat here, watch movies, enjoy cheese and wine and lemonades," she says. "It gets great sun all day and looks out to the pool and outdoor dining area." The couple installed large windows and glass doors so they could swing them open to enjoy sunny days and to encourage more outdoor living. The outdoor area is also one of Briony's favourite spots to relax and unwind. "When I have a child-free moment I like to sit outside under the awning with a magazine and coffee," she says. Sounds like pure bliss. **H+**



**RUSTIC ELEGANCE**  
Provincial Cross Back **chair**, \$149, from Early Settler.



**GOING GOLD**  
Sculptural **sphere** in Gold, \$39, from West Elm.



**LET IT SHINE!**  
Geneve DIY **chandelier** in Black, \$119, from Beacon Lighting.



**FRUITY FEATURE**  
Bronze Pineapple **lamp**, \$204, from One World Collection.

## BRIONY'S BEST BUYS

### SHOP THE PAGE

Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page to buy some of these items straight away!





## MASTER BEDROOM

### Sophisticated style

The master bedroom oozes luxury with lamps from One World Collection and a grand bed dressed in linen from Sheridan. >

BEST BUY



*"I picked up the leopard European cushion covers from Target. They're my favourite bargain buy for this room."*

## BRIONY'S COLOUR SCHEME

### MUSTARD

Murobond Pure Wall Flat paint in **Spice**, \$104 for 4L.

### BISCUIT

Taubmans Easycoat paint in **Pebble Bay Quarter**, \$52.95 for 4L.

### GREEN-GREY

Sherwin-Williams Cashmere Interior paint & primer in **Conduit Grey**, \$72 for 3.78L.





## BATHROOM

### Affordable find

The bathroom mirrors were a great find from Kmart – they only cost \$25 each!



## KIDS' BEDROOM

### Think pink

Paris and Scarlett have the perfect girls' room – bunk bed and desk from Domayne and pink wall art from Typo.



## KIDS' BEDROOM

### All aflutter

Pretty pink butterflies from Kmart make a gorgeous display in the girls' room.



### By the book

A large bookshelf houses Briony's book collection in the family room.

## STUDY

## TRY IT:

## COLOUR CODE YOUR BOOKSHELF

### Chasing rainbows

Organise your books in colour order for a simple way to make a stylish feature of your bookshelves.



**POOL**

**Peek-a-boo**  
Pink flamingos are a quirky addition in the pool area – they're Briony's fave animal.



**POOL**

**This is the life**  
Little Ivy takes a break next to the pool, which was installed after the family moved in. The chairs are from Big W.



**OUTDOORS**

**Summer lovin'**  
The outdoor area is small yet practical and perfect for entertaining. The table setting is from Domayne.



CONTEMPORARY HOME KAHLIA RYAN

# “This 3-bedroom house was completely RUNDOWN”

This house was dark and dated, but Kahlia Ryan brought in the sun and **gave it some flow.**

#### Cool chic

In the living room, Kahlia opted to use a cowhide from Luxury Hides and Adairs “Swiss” blanket in Coal.







## MEET KAHLIA

**About me** I'm Kahlia Ryan, assistant manager of a homewares store. I live here with my husband Matt and daughters Emmie, 7, Charlie, 5, and Poppy Grace, 4, plus our English springer spaniels Watson and Aggie.

**Top tip** Do the big things before you move in.

### DETAIL

**Sunny side out** The front door is painted in Dulux "Sunshine", a bright contrast against the dark exterior.

## DIY NATURAL WREATH

**You'll need** Greenery from the garden; Oasis foam wreath ring (available from craft stores or florists); wire; scissors.

**STEP ONE** Gather some leaves or flowers from the garden. (We used eucalyptus, gumnuts, wattle and cypress.)

**STEP TWO** Attach greenery to a lightly

damp Oasis foam wreath ring using wire.

**STEP THREE** Create a loop around the wreath with wire, so you can attach the wreath to your front door.

**THERE WAS SO MUCH** in need of repair with this 1970s three-bedroom house in the Lower Blue Mountains of NSW that it's a wonder Kahlia Ryan and her husband Matt bought it at all. But the couple were enamoured with the enviably high ceilings, and despite the white-painted brick and green cladding, Kahlia knew it would serve as the perfect canvas for her design flair.

"It was completely rundown," Kahlia recalls. "The kitchen was blue with lino floors and it was the first room you walked into. The bathroom didn't even function and there was no way to get

to the backyard from the main living areas. It also featured hideous '80s style vertical blinds in almost every room."

### PRIME POSITION

The couple spent three years renovating in stages, repainting inside and outside, knocking down a wall between the kitchen and living room then swapping those rooms over and adding a covered deck with stairs. They also ripped up the lino and painted the floorboards.

"This helped create a light, airy feel and is surprisingly easy to maintain with kids and dogs," she says. >

### DINING

#### Dine and design

The table is an old trestle owned by Matt's parents. "I love the raw industrial feel it gives to the space," Kahlia says.





## LIVING

### Soft and lovely

Pinks and lilacs feature throughout. The artwork and cushions are all from Adairs, and the sofa is from Freedom.

### TIP

Indoor plants are very trendy. They're easy to care for and look amazing.

## KAHLIA'S REINDEER FOOD

"Combine some oats with glitter and put equal parts into small bags for each child. My girls love spreading it out on the lawn each Christmas Eve and the birds usually eat the oats overnight so they are very excited in the morning to see the reindeers have enjoyed their treat!"

## KAHLIA'S COLOUR SCHEME

### WHITE

Dulux Wash & Wear in  
Antique White USA, \$71.90 for 4L.

### PINK

Haymes Interior Expressions in  
Pretty Peony, \$69.95 for 1L.

### GREY

Dulux Wash & Wear in  
Favoured, \$85.90 for 4L.



## KITCHEN

### In the spotlight

The pendant lights are from Schots Home Emporium. "I needed something big to balance the space and wanted something a little bit industrial."



## DETAIL

### Simple festive fun

Kahlia says real Christmas trees are so pretty they don't need many decorations. The garland is from Domayne.



## DECORATE OR HANG IT!

Decorate your gifts with **beautiful ornaments** that the recipient can then hang on their Chrissy tree.



**COPPER TREE**  
Metal **tree**,  
\$9.95 for 2, from  
Kikki.K.



**SHINE BRIGHT**  
Hanging wire  
**diamond**, \$4.95,  
from Adairs.



**NATURAL STYLE**  
Wooden **tree**,  
\$5.95, from  
Domayne.

## STUDY

### Open letters

The print is from Blacklist Studio. The lightbox from Typo is "great for parties".



## DETAIL

### Christmas colour

"Paper decorations from Poppies For Grace are a fun and inexpensive way to change your Christmas decor," Kahlia says.



## KAHLIA'S FAVE CHRISTMAS DECOS



**PAPER DECOS**  
Honeycomb **tissue balls**,  
from \$5.50 each, from  
Poppies For Grace.



**NATURAL VIBE**  
Home Republic  
"Vintage Washed  
Linen" **tablecloth**,  
\$129.95, from Adairs.



**PERFECT POT**  
Royal **pot**, \$140, from  
Design Twins.



LIGHTEN UP  
Luna **pendant light**  
in Antique Silver, \$249  
from Schots Home  
Emporium.



PERFECT PEAR  
Fine Little Day  
Pirum Parum  
**poster**, \$56, from  
Baby Donkie.

GOLD BOWL  
Be Brave 9cm **bowl**,  
\$12.95, from Kikki.K.



## KAHLIA'S BEST BUYS

TICK TOCK  
Lisa T marble-effect  
**desk clock**, \$20,  
from Target.



ROUND TABLE  
Replica Eames **coffee  
table** in Oak, \$350,  
from Matt Blatt.



### KIDS' BEDROOM

#### Pretty in pink

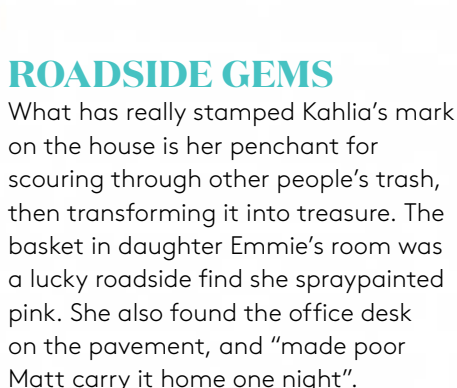
Pink is a playful accent colour in the girls' bedroom. The pink baskets are from Bed Bath N' Table, and the heart light is by Typo.



### MASTER BEDROOM

#### Blind faith

Kahlia opted for plantation shutters so she didn't lose valuable floor space to curtains. "They have such a classic look," she says.



### ROADSIDE GEMS

What has really stamped Kahlia's mark on the house is her penchant for scouring through other people's trash, then transforming it into treasure. The basket in daughter Emmie's room was a lucky roadside find she spraypainted pink. She also found the office desk on the pavement, and "made poor Matt carry it home one night".

There are also design elements that tell a story. Kahlia's favourite pieces are the black cockatoo print from Crazy Beautiful Home and the cockatoo cushions from Bonnie And Neil.

### KIDS' BEDROOM

#### What a doll!

Emmie collects Sonny Angel dolls. "Each comes as a lucky dip so you have no idea what you'll get. The surprise is half the fun," Kahlia says.



### KIDS' BEDROOM

#### Funny bunny!

The shared room is full of detail. The shelf is from Cotton On Kids, the bunny from Lark and the pom-pom garland from Down To The Woods.

"My grandparents lived near the bush and as a child I loved hearing cockatoos fly over," she says. "Whenever I hear them it takes me straight back to my childhood. I seem to have an addiction to buying anything featuring them."

### PIECE BY PIECE

As an interior design student, Kahlia loves dabbling in design styles such as Scandi, beachy and industrial to create her own authentic look.

"I don't think you can really decorate a whole room at a time as it can feel too put together," she says. >

#### SHOP THE PAGE

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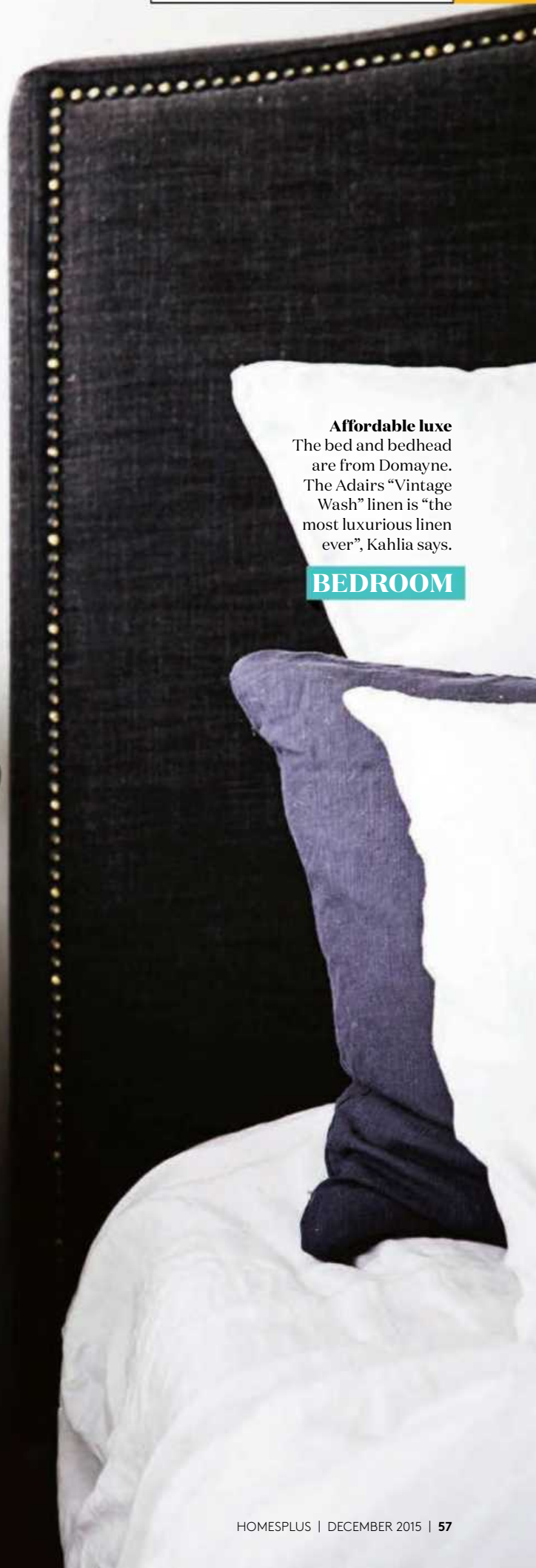
BEST BUY

*"The Lisa T for Target copper clock is the perfect size for my bedside table, and is quiet – a must in your sleeping space!"*



**Affordable luxe**  
The bed and bedhead are from Domayne. The Adairs "Vintage Wash" linen is "the most luxurious linen ever", Kahlia says.

BEDROOM





## BATHROOM



### Clean dream

In bathroom, practicality is key. "Large wall tiles are easy to clean with little kids, who splash water everywhere," Kahlia says.

## LIVING



### A baker's delight

The hanging flag features a scone recipe – Kahlia says she is a keen baker. All the kitchen cabinetry is by R&D Kitchens.



## DETAIL

### In full bloom

Flowers are Kahlia's favourite thing to buy. "To me they are like the finishing touch to a great outfit and always make me happy," she says.

## DETAIL



### After the flame

Kahlia is a big fan of Golden Skull Candles, which are hand-poured in Melbourne. She uses the empty amber jars as ornaments.

## BRIGHT IDEAS

The needs of her three daughters was a major consideration in the renovation – so much so that Kahlia gave her elder daughter a say in the style of her own bedroom, with interesting results.

"I made the mistake of letting her pick the wall colour and purple was the result," Kahlia admits. "I can't stand it but I really wanted her to feel like it was her space. I find the gold wall dots help."

The gold dots in this space and the white spots on the pink walls in

the shared bedroom are by Vivid Wall Decals, and can be removed easily without damaging the walls.

"These are a fantastic way to add a bit of fun to kids' rooms without much expense or effort," she says.

## BUDGET MINDED

Renovating the bathroom was a major task, but sourcing items from Gray's Online auctions kept the cost under \$5000. "Don't move plumbing, it could save you thousands," Kahlia advises.

## LIVING



### It's only natural

The tree-look table from Peponi Home merges beautifully with the timber floorboards, whitewashed with Porter's Paints "Limewash".

## DETAIL



### GET THE LOOK

### Oh deer

Kahlia painted this MDF reindeer from Kmart black and added a pom-pom garland from Down To The Woods.



## OPEN SPACES

An important consideration for Kahlia was ensuring flow throughout the house. "Moving the kitchen has completely changed how we use the space. It's so nice to be in here and be able to see the girls playing outside," she says. "I love having the girls sit at the bench after school and filling me in on their day. Because of the way the kitchen flows onto the deck, even if I'm inside cooking or cleaning up I can still be a part of what's going on."

The best part of the renovation is that it's given the girls more room to be kids. "We have breakfasts, lunches and dinners out on the deck while the girls play in the backyard," Kahlia says. **H+**

## EXTERIOR

### Warm welcome

Kahlia's front entrance touches include plants, a "Home" sign from Recollections and a bird feeder from 1825 Interiors.



## DETAIL

### Meet and greet

Brightening up the exterior has made a big difference. The cheery "Hello" sign is from Target.



### VIRTUAL TOUR

Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page to watch a home tour of Kahlia's place.



## CHRISTMAS TREND TO TRY SCANDI STYLE



**HEAD MASTER**  
Decorative  
**stag head** in Black,  
\$10, from Kmart.



**THE RIGHT ANGLE**  
Triangle **shadow box**,  
\$39.99, from Typo.



**COLOUR CODE**  
O.B.Designs "Pompom"  
**garland**, \$29.95, from  
Hard To Find.



**AQUA DREAM**  
Dulux Wash & Wear  
in **Sparkling Cove**,  
\$85.90 per 4L.



**STEEL YOURSELF**  
Taubmans Endure  
in **Iron Gate**,  
\$61.90 for 4L.

**Add a touch of paint to plywood**  
Give wooden ornaments  
a new festive feel by repainting  
in block colours.



SHOW US  
YOUR HOME  
& WIN \$10000  
see how on pg.112

#### Festive fun

"We always make a big effort to make the festive season as special and memorable as possible for our girls," says Tess.

BEACHY HOME **TESS BEAGLEY**

“We wanted to achieve a  
**CONTEMPORARY  
COASTAL VIBE**”

Tess has given her dated weatherboard worker's cottage in WA a **bright and beachy** makeover.



## DETAIL

### Secret storage

A distressed timber print drawer dresser holds books and toys.



**CHRISTMAS AT TESS'S HOUSE** is a laidback, family affair that makes the most of the coastal surroundings. The house sits above the beach in Geraldton, Western Australia, which means Tess, husband Yves and the girls are either down at the beach and local cafes or relaxing on their fabulous deck area. With a beachy aesthetic in mind, traditional decorations are nowhere in sight. Instead, Tess has opted for a no-fuss approach that gives just a subtle nod to the festive season.

## DINING

### Gather round

Turquoise chairs from Retrojan complement the rustic timber table from Bunnings.



## MEET TESS

**About me** My name is Tess and I live here with my husband Yves, 34, daughters Lotte, four, Jemima, two, and our 12-year-old sausage dog Chilli.

**Top tip** When renovating, always budget for 20 per cent more than what you think your renovation will cost you.



## HOME HISTORY

The home is a 1950s weatherboard worker's cottage that was formerly a station master's house when the town was settled, so it has plenty of history to work with.

"It was in great condition when we bought it but had a heritage theme which didn't really suit our style or the proximity to the beach. We repainted as soon as we moved in as the inside was a murky green below the dado rail, and the dado rail itself was a dark maroon," Tess explains. »



## DETAIL

### Cosy style

Tess has created a reading corner in the main bedroom, complete with a leather-strap ply shelf and a white armchair.



"We wanted to achieve a contemporary coastal vibe while respecting the character and history of the house." Tess chose light paint colours, such as Dulux "White Duck Quarter" throughout and Vivid White on skirtings and architraves, to promote as much natural light as possible. The couple paid homage to the house's history by keeping features like timber cladding, dado rails, antique French doors and double-hung wood frame windows.

## HANDS ON DECK

Structurally, Tess and Yves have converted an old bathroom into a bedroom and also created a powder room, with plans to move the kitchen from the centre to the front of the house to create a more functional open-plan living area that continues ›

## LIVING ROOM

### Gorgeous gallery

Photos by Tess's sister (of Carrie Young Photography) hang in frames from Country Road and Target. Cushions by Bonnie And Neil.



### SEE TESS'S PLACE

Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page to see a video of Tess showing her breezy beachy home.

## DETAIL

### DIY work space

Tess made the aged pine desktop herself (see below). She placed it on two Ikea drawer stands. Chair and basket from Target.



## DIY AGED DESKTOP

You'll need: Grade #0000 steel wool; 2 lidded mason jars; vinegar; teabags; paintbrush; 3 lengths of pine (measurements of choice); clean sponge.

**STEP ONE** Tear off some steel wool and place in jar. Pour vinegar into jar, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, and screw on lid. Let it sit for at least 24 hours.

**STEP TWO** The next day, brew two teabags in a separate jar and "paint" the tea onto the pine.

**STEP THREE** When the tea is dry, paint the wood with the steel wool/vinegar solution. You'll notice a change of colour immediately. When completely dry, wash the timber with clean water to remove the vinegar smell.





**“This room is a curation of some of my most beloved Australian brands.”**

## BEDROOM

### Sorbet shades

Soft tones of coral and aqua create a subtle feminine feel. Tess has combined colourful bedlinen from Kip & Co with side tables and lamps from Target.

## TESS'S COLOUR SCHEME

### SUNSHINE

Dulux Wash & Wear paint in **Swedish Yellow**, \$85.90 for 4L.

### BABY BLUE

Dulux Wash & Wear paint in **Whimsy Quarter**, \$85.90 for 4L.

### ROSE

Taubmans Endure paint in **Rosedale Pink**, \$67.95 for 4L.



## KIDS BEDROOM

### Fruity cutie

Wall decals, art and playful accessories have been used to create a whimsical feel in the girls' bedroom.



*"We bought some map insets from Paper Fusion and handles from Etsy to revamp a pair of old pine chests of drawers."*

BEST BUY



# thrifty idea TO STEAL

A few key pieces can transform a plain room into every little girl or boy's dream.



**YUMMY!**  
Jimmy Cricket  
Donut **wall decals**  
\$29.95 for 10, from  
Leo&Bella.



**THE  
GIRL'S  
ROOM**



**THE  
BOY'S  
ROOM**



**BLAST OFF**  
Orbit **wall sticker  
pack**, \$45 for 86  
stickers, from  
Tiny Me.

## DETAIL

### Pretty playroom

An Ikea daybed is covered with cute blankets and cushions from Country Road, Spearmint Love and Castle. Crochet rug from CarlitaCreations on Etsy.



**Colourful and playful pieces create a whimsical feel in the girls' room.**



## DETAIL

### Little bookworms

Lotte and Jemima snuggle up in their reading chair, which was a thrift shop find that Tess reupholstered.

## DETAIL

### Dinner time!

Lotte cooks up a feast with her Ikea play kitchen. >





## VERANDAH

**Natural vibe**  
Jemima places presents wrapped in brown kraft paper under the family's "Christmas tree".



**VINTAGE STYLE**  
Ambient **pendant light**, \$399, from Citta Design.



**CLEVER IDEA**  
Assemblages **leather shelves**, \$255 (wooden planks extra), from Lightly.

## TESS'S BEST BUYS



**SUPER SEAT**  
Max cafe **dining chair**, \$99, from Retrojan.



**SOFT SERVE**  
Ceramic Ice Cream **moneybank**, \$15, from Target.



**SOFT TOUCH**  
Velvet Penny Round **cushion** in Blue (37cm), \$84, from Castle.

## 3 WAYS: NATURAL DECORATIONS



**Floral doorstep**  
Weigh down a basket with a few bricks, then pop in a bunch of wildflowers. Simple yet beautiful.



**Eucalyptus wreath**  
Weave dried eucalyptus branches around a circle of wire. Leave longer pieces hanging for added charm.



**Door decor**  
Dollar eucalyptus stems inside a basket, from The Market Basket Co, makes a sweet door decoration.



### SHOP THE PAGE

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## OUTSIDE

### Beach babes

The family head down to the beach, just a one-minute walk from their home.



## DETAIL

**Laidback life**  
Acapulco chairs from Bunnings make for comfy seating on the deck.

## “We’ve planted a mix of seaside pretties and natives, and grown a lush lawn for the kids.”

out onto the deck and yard to take in the beautiful ocean views.

One of the most successful decisions was to extend the deck area. “We spend lots of time relaxing on the deck, watching sunsets, entertaining and playing with the girls,” Tess says.

## EASY DOES IT

It’s clear Tess loves a simple, cool and creative space that reflects the easy-going vibe that comes with living by the sea. “I love fresh, crisp spaces with plenty of natural light and colour,” she explains. Tess says her style is always evolving to suit current favourites and

she’s a self-confessed cushion addict. Much of the furniture in the home has a distressed look, which not only suits the coastal aesthetic, it’s also a practical choice with two toddlers.

When it comes to Christmas styling, Tess has opted for a simplistic Chrissy tree – a potted agave flower with the fronds removed from the base (they grow everywhere in the local area) – to suit the home’s natural, coastal vibe. Seasonal dried natives also feature and make for stunning centrepieces. A eucalyptus wreath hangs from one of the French doors – a nice Aussie touch and simple to make (see left). **H+**



# love

*indoor living at early settler*

*Pictured:*

**Tremont** 3 light  
pendant Now \$139  
(RRP \$199),

**Pembroke** candle  
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# EASY FOOD

( DELICIOUS DISHES FOR CHRISTMAS )

PREPARE  
YOUR  
**FESTIVE  
FEAST**  
WITH OUR TIME  
PLANNER

**XMAS  
RECIPES**

for starters,  
dinner and  
desserts!



**THIS MONTH** PARTY FINGER FOODS, BAKED HAM & SWEETS TO EAT OR GIVE





recipes+  
magazine editor  
Amanda Lennon  
shares her best  
bites for the  
festive season

## PARTY STARTERS

# fast NIBBLES

Don't spend this special day in the kitchen. Feed your guests fast with these **super-quick starters** to share.

### SMOKED TROUT PINWHEELS

SERVES 6 (MAKES 36)  
PREP 20 MINUTES + CHILLING  
\$2.95 PER SERVE

- + 12 slices wholemeal bread
- + 120g cream cheese, softened
- + 2 tablespoons sour cream
- + 1 tablespoon finely chopped dill sprigs, plus extra sprigs to serve
- + 1 green onion (shallot), finely chopped
- + 2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
- + 300g sliced smoked trout
- + 1 telegraph cucumber, cut into ribbons, seeds discarded
- + Pepper

**STEP 1** Remove crusts from bread. Using a rolling pin, firmly roll each bread until 2mm thick. Blend cheese, sour cream, dill, green onion and zest in a food processor until combined.

**STEP 2** Spread cream cheese mixture over bread. Top with slices of smoked trout, then cucumber. Season with pepper. Using both hands, roll up to form a tight log and secure with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 15 minutes or until required.

**STEP 3** Just before serving, unwrap rolls and cut each into three pieces. Serve scattered with extra dill.



## WARM PRAWN BURRITOS WITH AVOCADO SALAD

**SERVES 6 PREP 10 MINUTES COOK 10 MINUTES \$3.45 PER SERVE**

- + ¼ cup olive oil
- + 2 teaspoons paprika
- + 2 corn cobs, husks and silks removed
- + 1kg large uncooked prawns, peeled, deveined, tails left intact
- + 2 avocados, finely chopped
- + 250g cherry tomatoes, halved
- + ½ cup coriander leaves
- + 2 green onions (shallots), finely chopped
- + Salt and pepper
- + 250g extra-light sour cream
- + 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- + 6 flour tortillas, heated, to serve

**STEP 1** Preheat a chargrill over high heat. Mix 1 tablespoon of oil with paprika. Set aside. Brush corn with 1 tablespoon of remaining oil. Grill, turning occasionally, for 10 minutes or until brown and tender. Transfer to a chopping board. Cool slightly. Using a large knife, cut kernels from cobs. Place kernels in a large bowl.

**STEP 2** Meanwhile, toss prawns in remaining oil. Add to grill. Cook and turn for 5 minutes or until prawns change colour and curl. Transfer to a plate.

**STEP 3** Add avocado, tomato, coriander and onion to corn. Season. Toss to combine. Whisk sour cream and garlic. Drizzle with paprika oil. Swirl to combine.

**STEP 4** Serve warm tortillas with prawns, avocado salad and sour cream sauce.



## SPICY BEEF MEATBALLS IN LETTUCE LEAVES

**SERVES 6 PREP 15 MINUTES COOK 10 MINUTES \$3.55 PER SERVE**

- + 600g beef mince
- + 2 tomatoes, finely chopped
- + ½ cup finely chopped flat-leaf parsley, plus extra sprigs, to serve
- + ¼ cup fresh breadcrumbs
- + ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- + 2 tablespoons olive oil
- + 12 small butter lettuce leaves
- + Chilli sauce, to serve

**STEP 1** Combine beef, tomato, parsley, breadcrumbs and oregano in a large bowl. Roll into 24 small meatballs. Place on a tray.

**STEP 2** Heat oil in a large frying pan on medium. Cook meatballs, in batches, for 10 minutes or until browned all over and cooked through. Serve in lettuce leaves topped with chilli sauce and extra parsley sprigs.

**TIP**  
Prepare the salad just before serving.



## BAKED BRIE WITH CHERRY SALSA

**SERVES 12 PREP 10 MINUTES COOK 15 MINUTES \$2.45 PER SERVE**

- + 600g whole brie cheese wheel
- + Crackers, to serve
- + 250g pitted cherries, halved
- + 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- + 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- + 1 teaspoon finely shredded mint

**STEP 1** Preheat oven to 190°C/170°C fan-forced. Line base and sides of an 18cm round cake pan or ovenproof dish with baking paper.

**STEP 2** Place cheese in prepared pan and loosely cover with foil. Bake for 15 minutes or until warmed through and slightly runny.

**STEP 3** To make cherry salsa, combine ingredients in a bowl. Serve brie with cherry salsa and crackers. ■





## FESTIVE FOOD

# FARE TO share

Gather the crowd and get set for a delicious **Christmas lunch for 12**. There's also a **handy time planner** to make the experience stress-free. Enjoy!

## CHRISTMAS MENU FOR 12

### STARTER

Turkey Scotch Eggs With Paprika Mayonnaise

### MAIN

Glazed Ham With Pistachio Crust

### SIDES

Potato Galette  
Heirloom Salad With Olive Dressing  
Pomegranate & Pumpkin Fattoush

### DESSERT

Triple Chocolate Trifle

### STARTER

## TURKEY SCOTCH EGGS WITH PAPRIKA MAYONNAISE

SERVES 12 PREP 45 MINUTES COOK 20 MINUTES

+ CHILLING + RESTING **\$2.62 PER SERVE**

- + 12 eggs, plus 2 extra
- + 1kg turkey mince
- + 500g pork sausages, casings removed
- + 1 white onion, finely chopped
- + 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- + 2 tablespoons finely chopped flat-leaf parsley
- + 1 tablespoon chopped thyme
- + 1 tablespoon ground white pepper
- + Salt
- + ¾ cup milk
- + 1½ cups plain flour
- + 200g dried panko breadcrumbs
- + Vegetable oil, for deep-frying
- + Baby rocket leaves, to serve
- PAPRIKA MAYONNAISE**
- + ½ cup whole-egg mayonnaise
- + 1 teaspoon mild paprika
- + 2 teaspoons wholegrain mustard
- + 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- + 1 tablespoon finely chopped chives

**STEP 1** Place 12 eggs in a saucepan of cold water. Bring to a gentle simmer on medium heat and cook for 3 minutes. Remove eggs and run under cold water. When cool enough to handle, peel, pat dry and set aside.

**STEP 2** In a large bowl, combine turkey mince, sausage meat,

onion, mustard, parsley, thyme and pepper. Season with salt. Shape mixture into 12 flat patties. Place a patty in your hand, top with an egg and wrap patty around to fully enclose, pressing to seal edges together. Place on a tray. Chill for 20 minutes.

**STEP 3 PAPRIKA MAYONNAISE** Combine ingredients and place in a sealed container. Refrigerate until required.

**STEP 4** Lightly whisk extra eggs and milk in a bowl. Place flour and breadcrumbs into separate bowls. Roll each meat-coated egg into flour, followed by egg mixture then coat in breadcrumbs. Repeat steps to double-coat the eggs. Refrigerate for 10 minutes.

**STEP 5** Preheat oven to 200°C/180°C fan-forced. Heat oil in a deep-fryer or large saucepan to 180°C. Oil is ready when a cube of bread is golden in 30 seconds. Fry eggs, in batches, for 2-3 minutes or until golden. Remove with a slotted spoon. Drain on paper towel. Place on a baking tray. Bake for 15 minutes or until meat is cooked through. Serve with paprika mayo.





## MAIN

## GLAZED HAM WITH PISTACHIO CRUST

SERVES 12 WITH LEFTOVERS PREP 25 MINUTES

COOK 1 HOUR 15 MINUTES + RESTING \$5.61 PER SERVE

- + 1 cup dessert wine
- + ¼ cup cranberry jelly sauce
- + ¼ cup fresh orange juice
- + ¼ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- + ½ teaspoon ground clove
- + 7kg leg of ham, on the bone
- + 1½ cups chopped shelled pistachios
- + 1 cup dried cranberries, chopped

**STEP 1** Combine wine, half of cranberry jelly, orange juice, sugar and clove in a small saucepan on medium heat. Bring to boil and cook, stirring occasionally, for 12 minutes or until reduced by half and glaze is thick and syrupy. Set aside to cool for 15 minutes.

**STEP 2** Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced. Adjust oven shelves to the lowest position. Line a large baking dish

with baking paper. Using a small sharp knife, cut around shank end of ham in a zigzag pattern, 10cm from end. Run knife under rind, around edge of ham. To lift the rind off, run fingers between fat and rind. Score fat in a diamond pattern at 3cm intervals, being careful not to cut into meat. Place ham in prepared dish and brush with glaze. Bake for 40 minutes, basting every 15 minutes or until golden. Remove from oven.

**STEP 3** Combine pistachios, dried cranberries and remaining cranberry jelly in a small bowl. Mix ¼ cup of cooking juices through pistachio mixture and press firmly onto ham. Return to oven and cook for a further 20 minutes or until crust is lightly browned. Rest for 30 minutes before carving into slices. »



EASIER THAN IT LOOKS

**TIP** Reduce washing up by cooking the ham in a disposable aluminium tray.

## TIME PLAN

UP TO  
**2 DAYS**

AHEAD

✓ **Make Paprika Mayonnaise for Turkey Scotch Eggs.**

✓ **Make Heirloom Salad to end of step 1.**

UP TO  
**1 DAY**

AHEAD

✓ **Make Turkey Scotch Eggs.**

✓ **Make Glazed Ham With Pistachio Crust.**

✓ **Make Pomegranate & Pumpkin Fattoush to end of step 3.**

UP TO  
**6 HOURS**

AHEAD

✓ **Make Potato Galette.**

✓ **Continue Pomegranate & Pumpkin Fattoush to end of step 4.**

✓ **Make the Triple-Chocolate Trifle.**

UP TO  
**30 MINS**

BEFORE SERVING

✓ **Continue Heirloom Salad from step 2.**

✓ **Reheat Potato Galette by placing in an 180°C or 160°C fan-forced oven for 30 minutes. Cover with foil if overbrowning.**

✓ **Continue Pomegranate & Pumpkin Fattoush from step 5.**



## SIDES



### HEIRLOOM SALAD WITH OLIVE DRESSING

**SERVES 12 PREP 15 MINUTES**

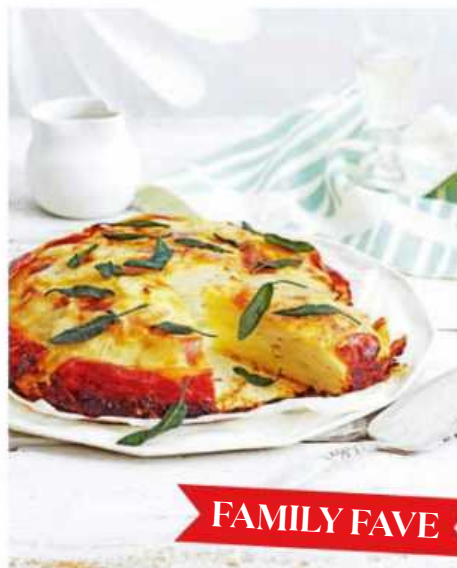
**\$3.35 PER SERVE**

- + 3 x 400g punnets mixed heirloom tomatoes
- + 1 red onion, halved, thinly sliced
- + 1 cup basil leaves, torn
- + 220g bambini bocconcini cheese
- OLIVE DRESSING**
- + 1½ cups pitted kalamata olives, drained
- + 4 anchovy fillets
- + 2 tablespoons baby capers, drained
- + 1 garlic clove, crushed
- + 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- + ½ cup extra virgin olive oil

**STEP 1** To make olive dressing, place olives, anchovy, capers, garlic and lemon juice in a food processor and process for 30 seconds, until combined. With motor running, slowly pour in oil until combined. Transfer to a sealed container and refrigerate until required.

**STEP 2** Cut small tomatoes in half and larger ones into quarters. Place in a large bowl with onion, basil and bocconcini, and toss to combine.

**STEP 3** To serve, arrange salad on a platter and drizzle with olive dressing.



## FAMILY FAVE

### POTATO GALETTE

**SERVES 12 PREP 20 MINUTES**

**COOK 2 HOURS \$1.61 PER SERVE**

- + 6 wide slices Serrano ham
- + 2.5kg waxy potatoes (such as sebago, Dutch cream or King Edward), very thinly sliced
- + 2 brown onions, halved, thinly sliced
- + 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- + 1 cup thickened cream
- + 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- + 2 tablespoons dry white wine
- + 1 cup grated vintage cheddar
- + Salt and pepper
- + 2 tablespoons olive oil
- + ½ cup sage leaves

**STEP 1** Preheat oven to 200°C/180°C fan-forced. Grease and line base of a 26cm (base measurement) springform pan with baking paper, leaving an overhang of paper – this will give a snug fit when pan is locked in and help prevent any cooking juices escaping. Line sides of pan with ham, overlapping edges.

**STEP 2** Combine potato, onion, garlic, cream, mustard, wine and cheese in a large bowl and season. Layer mixture into prepared pan, overlapping in a circular pattern. Cover with foil and bake for 1½ hours or until almost tender. Remove foil and bake for a further 30 minutes or until golden and potato is soft when a skewer is inserted.

**STEP 3** Meanwhile, heat oil in a small frying pan on medium heat. Cook sage leaves for 1-2 minutes or until crisp. Drain on paper towel.

**STEP 4** Remove galette from pan, sprinkle with sage leaves and serve in wedges.



### POMEGRANATE & PUMPKIN FATTOUSH

**SERVES 12 PREP 20 MINUTES**

**COOK 30 MINUTES \$2.80 PER SERVE**

- + 1.5kg butternut pumpkin, peeled, cut into 2cm pieces
- + 2 tablespoons pomegranate molasses
- + 2 tablespoons runny honey
- + ½ cup olive oil
- + 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- + 1 tablespoon sumac, plus extra to serve
- + 3 Lebanese flatbreads
- + 2 teaspoons sea salt flakes
- + 350g green beans, cut in half diagonally
- + 3 Lebanese cucumbers, chopped
- + 2 cups flat-leaf parsley leaves
- + 2 cups mint leaves
- + 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- + 1 pomegranate, seeds removed

**STEP 1** Preheat oven to 190°C/170°C fan-forced. Line two trays with baking paper.

**STEP 2** Combine pumpkin, pomegranate molasses, honey and half of olive oil in a large bowl. Place on prepared trays and bake for 20 minutes or until tender and golden. Remove from oven and set aside to cool. Reserve any cooking juices.

**STEP 3** Mix remaining oil, garlic and sumac in a small bowl. Brush mixture over flatbreads, sprinkle with salt, place on two baking trays and cook for 10 minutes or until crisp and golden. Remove from oven and cool. Break up into small pieces.

**STEP 4** Meanwhile, blanch beans in a saucepan of boiling water for 2 minutes or until bright green and still crunchy. Using a slotted spoon, remove from saucepan and refresh in iced water.

**STEP 5** To serve, place pumpkin, beans, cucumber, parsley, mint and flatbread pieces in a large bowl and toss to combine. Combine reserved juices with lemon juice. Sprinkle salad with pomegranate seeds, extra sumac and lemon dressing.

**TIP Sumac is a Middle Eastern spice with a tangy citrus flavour. It can be found in the supermarket spice aisle.**



## DESSERT

## TRIPLE-CHOCOLATE TRIFLE

SERVES 12 PREP 45 MINUTES COOK 5 MINUTES + CHILLING

\$3.57 PER SERVE

- + 10 sheets gelatine (gold strength)
- + 3 cups pomegranate juice
- + 800g light fruit cake
- + ¼ cup Grand Marnier liqueur
- + 2 cups ready-made double-thick chocolate custard
- + 250g strawberries, sliced
- + 250g mascarpone
- + 300ml pure cream, whipped
- + 2 tablespoons icing sugar
- + Grated zest of 1 orange
- + 100g white chocolate, melted, cooled
- CHOCOLATE CURLS**
- + 200g dark chocolate, melted
- CHOCOLATE-DIPPED STRAWBERRIES**
- + 250g small strawberries
- + 100g milk chocolate, melted
- + 100g white chocolate, melted

**STEP 1** Soak gelatine in a bowl of cold water for 5 minutes to soften. Place ½ cup

pomegranate juice in a small saucepan. Squeeze excess water from gelatine sheets and add to juice in pan. Place on medium heat and stir until dissolved. Stir in remaining juice. Strain liquid into a 3-litre-capacity glass serving bowl. Refrigerate for 3 hours or until set.

**STEP 2** Crumble half of fruit cake over jelly and drizzle with half of Grand Marnier. Spoon custard over cake and smooth surface. Scatter strawberry over custard. Arrange remaining cake on top and drizzle with remaining Grand Marnier.

**STEP 3** Mix mascarpone, 2 tablespoons whipped cream, icing sugar and zest in a bowl. Fold through melted white chocolate and remaining whipped cream. Spoon mixture over second layer of cake. Refrigerate for 1 hour.

**STEP 4** To make chocolate curls, spread melted dark chocolate onto a marble board or hard surface and set aside for 10 minutes or until just set. Using a palette knife or barbecue scraper, in a forward scraping motion, run knife over chocolate to make curls. Set aside.

**STEP 5** To make chocolate-dipped strawberries, line a baking tray with baking paper. Holding green ends of strawberries, dip half of strawberries into melted milk chocolate and the rest into melted white chocolate. Place on prepared tray. Refrigerate for 30 minutes or until set.

**STEP 6** To serve, scatter chocolate curls and dipped strawberries over top of trifle. Any leftover dipped strawberries and chocolate curls can be placed in bowls and served alongside trifle. **H•**

EASIER THAN IT LOOKS

**TIP** Here's a fast cheat: use your favourite jelly crystals instead of the gelatine and juice.





## SPICED STARS

**MAKES** 22 LARGE + 22 SMALL

**PREP** 30 MINUTES + CHILLING

**COOK** 10 MINUTES

**50¢ PER BISCUIT**

- + ¼ cup treacle
- + ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- + 125g butter, at room temperature
- + 1 egg
- + 2 cups plain flour
- + ½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- + 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- + 2 teaspoons ground cardamom
- + 1 cup icing sugar mixture

**STEP 1** Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced. Line two oven trays with baking paper. Using an electric mixer, beat treacle, sugar, butter and egg until pale and creamy. Add combined flour, soda and spices. Stir to combine. Turn onto a lightly floured surface. Knead until smooth. Cover with plastic wrap. Chill for 30 minutes to rest.

**STEP 2** Divide dough into two equal portions. Roll one portion between sheets of baking powder until 5mm thick. Using an 8cm star pastry cutter, cut stars from pastry. Using a 3cm star cutter, cut an inner star from each large star. Place small and large stars on prepared trays. Continue with remaining portion of dough.

**STEP 3** Bake small stars for 6 minutes, and large stars for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven. Cool completely on trays (biscuits will firm).

**STEP 4** Combine icing sugar with 1-2 tablespoons water to make a smooth icing. Decorate biscuits with icing. Allow to set and serve.

## MERRY MORSELS

# SWEET TALK

Decorate the tree, fill the stockings and **share these delicious Christmas treats** with family and friends– they're easier to make than they look!



**TIP** Hard-ball stage is when a spoonful of syrup forms a hard ball when dropped in iced water.



## PISTACHIO & CHERRY NOUGAT

**MAKES** 16 **PREP** 20 MINUTES

**COOK** 10 MINUTES **\$1.15 PER PIECE**

- + 2 edible rice paper sheets
- + 1½ cups caster sugar
- + ¼ cup honey
- + ¼ cup liquid glucose
- + 1 eggwhite
- + ½ cup shelled pistachios, toasted, chopped
- + 100g red glacé cherries, halved

**STEP 1** Grease a 15cm square cake pan. Line base with 1 sheet of rice paper. Combine sugar, honey, glucose and 2 tablespoons water in a medium heavy-based saucepan. Stir over low heat for 5 minutes or until sugar dissolves. Increase heat to high and bring to boil. Boil, without stirring, occasionally brushing down sides of pan with a pastry brush dipped in water, for 5 minutes or until a candy thermometer reaches 132°C (hard-ball stage).

**STEP 2** Meanwhile, using an electric mixer, beat eggwhite in a small bowl until firm peaks form. Working quickly, with mixer operating, beat hot sugar syrup into eggwhite mixture, until combined. Beat for 1 minute or until mixture is thick and glossy. Using a metal spoon, fold in pistachio and cherry. Pour into prepared pan and smooth surface. Top with remaining rice paper sheet. Set aside in a cool, dry place for 4 hours or until set.

**STEP 3** Turn nougat out onto a chopping board and cut into squares.

## DECADENT CHRISTMAS FRUIT CAKE

**SERVES** 16 **PREP** 45 MINUTES

**COOK** 2 HOURS 55 MINUTES **\$2.95 PER SERVE**

- + 300g butter, chopped
- + 600g chopped mixed glacé fruit
- + 2 cups dried pitted dates, chopped
- + ½ cup rum, plus extra to brush
- + ½ cup golden syrup
- + 1½ cups firmly packed muscovado sugar
- + 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- + 6 eggs, lightly whisked
- + 2½ cups plain flour
- + ½ cup self-raising flour
- + 1 tablespoon mixed spice
- + 500g ready-made fondant icing
- + ¼ cup apricot jam, warmed, sieved
- + Ribbon and Christmas decorations

**STEP 1** Place butter, glacé fruit, dates, rum, golden syrup and sugar in a large saucepan on medium heat. Cook, stirring, for 10 minutes or until butter melts and sugar dissolves. Simmer, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in bicarbonate of soda. Cool completely.

**STEP 2** Preheat oven to 150°C/130°C fan-forced. Grease a 7cm-deep, 20cm square cake pan. Line base and sides with

three layers of brown or baking paper. Stir egg into fruit mixture. Sift over flours and mixed spice. Stir to combine. Pour into prepared pan and smooth surface. Bake, covering loosely with foil halfway through cooking, for 2 hours 45 minutes or until a skewer inserted into centre comes out clean. Remove from oven. Stand for 10 minutes. Turn out onto a wire rack. Brush with extra rum. Wrap in a clean tea towel and place on rack for 6 hours or overnight, until completely cooled.

**STEP 3** Using a serrated knife, level top of cake. Place cake, cut-side down, on a serving plate or board. Knead icing on a work surface dusted with icing sugar until smooth and pliable. Roll fondant out between sheets of baking paper until 5mm thick. Brush cake with jam. Roll icing over a rolling pin and drape over cake. With dusted hands, shape icing around cake, rubbing with baking paper to smooth completely. Trim excess. Stand for 1 hour or until icing is firm. Tie with ribbon. Top with Christmas decorations. **H+**



**TIP** Wrap fruit cake in baking paper and foil. Store in an airtight container in a cool, dark place for up to 2 months.



# Brighten up your home



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# BEFORE & AFTER RENOS

( READERS' EXPERIENCES, TIPS & BUDGETS )

**ONE  
READER'S  
COMPLETE  
HOME  
RENO!**

## **Raw edge**

A pair of concrete pendant lights make for a industrial-style focal point above the kitchen island.

## **Modern touch**

One of the first things homeowner Renae did was open up the walls to the separate kitchen, living and dining rooms to create one large open-plan space. >

**THIS MONTH** A CLEVER BUDGET RENO ON AN ORIGINAL DECO-STYLE HOME





## after

### Live it up

A fresh lick of paint and plantation shutters have completely changed the look of this space.

### BEST BUY

“We have a Rinnai gas log heater in the lounge. This was the best purchase – it not only looks amazing but heats the entire house in winter.”

## RENOVATE & DECORATE

# IN GOOD TIME

A real labour of love, several years of renovating fulfilled this **original Deco-style** home's potential.

**AS SOON AS RENAE** saw her future home, she had a feeling she had to buy it. The poky rooms, dark timber trims and green wallpaper of the 1930s property didn't deter her – “I loved the fact that it was in such original condition,” Renae says. “I knew it would be so rewarding to transform.”

It was purchased in 2009 and Renae, with the help of family and friends, painted the whole home and opened up the back to create a large open-plan living area. Fits and starts meant that the last part of the reno, converting the main bathroom and hallway into an ensuite and walk-in robe for the main bedroom, was only recently completed. “It would've been great to have extended to three bedrooms, but working within the walls of the existing house, I think it's turned out as a pretty neat little two bedroom/two bathroom house!” Renae says – and we agree! **H+**



## after

### Neat and simple

Painting the trims and door white instantly lifts the entryway.



## before

### Strip off

The original wallpaper was the first thing to go!

## before

### Sound investment

“The bones of the house were in perfect condition,” Renae says.



## after

### Bright white

Renae replaced the green Art Deco tiling in her bathroom with simple white rectangular tiles laid in a modern grid pattern.







## MEET RENAE

**About me** I'm Renae Vercoe and I live with my partner Craig O'Malley and our dog Randall, a Blue Heeler cross.

**Top tip** Have a vision of what you want the end result to be, plan, do lots of research and patiently chip away at it until you get there. It's the most rewarding experience.



**after**

**Cosmetic change**  
Covering the brick mantel gave the front bedroom a contemporary update.



**after**

**Fresh and new**  
Renae went with white for the new kitchen, which now opens out onto the living and dining space.



**before**

**Timely update**  
The original kitchen was poky, small and incredibly dated.



**Fired up**  
The old fireplace needed a major makeover.

**before**



## BUDGET BREAKDOWN

**KITCHEN** Cabinetry, lighting, appliances, benchtop, tiles and tapware **\$11,895**

**BATHROOM** Tiling, bath, shower screen, mirror, toilet, tapware and basin **\$2465**

**ENSUITE** Tiles and tiling, vanity, basin, tapware, toilet, shower, mirror and sliding door **\$6400**

**BEDROOMS** Fireplace insert, walk-in and built-in robes **\$2400**

**DINING, LIVING & ENTRY AREA** New extension and heating **\$12,700**

**LAUNDRY** Plumbing, tiling, tap, sink and cabinetry **\$3865**

**PAINT & FLOOR FINISH** **\$4200**

**SHUTTERS** **\$4200**

**ELECTRICITY** **\$3550**

**PAVING & LANDSCAPING** **\$5000**

**DECKING** **\$5000**

**Total \$61,675**



**after**

**Smooth moves**  
The previous main bathroom and hallway were turned into a beautiful ensuite and walk-in robe.



## STYLIST'S CHALLENGE

# WIN A \$1000 MAKEOVER

Our **Super Stylist** Jackie works her magic and revamps a family living room just in time for Christmas.

**EVEN IF YOU KNOW** what you like when you see it, it can be difficult to replicate a great look in your own home. Lisa, from Randwick in Sydney, faced this exact problem: her open-plan living space served her young family well, but she didn't know where to start when it came time to decorate. Enter our stylist, Jackie!

## The verdict

As this is the only living area in the home, it needed to function as a place for the kids to play, and the adults to relax. Initially, the centre of the space was empty and underutilised, feeling more like a thoroughfare to the backyard. "Jackie has made this space more cohesive and connected," says Lisa. "To be on a strict budget and still give the room a fresh and renewed feeling is amazing." And her favourite items? "The rug and coffee table. They tie the room together." **H+**



### GET THIS LOOK

Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page to buy some of these items and see a video of this room.



### before

#### Mismatched look

The room is well structured but it required a few new items to update the style.



#### Cosy corner

Colourful cushions and a throw refresh the sofa.

## THE DECOR KIT: JACKIE'S MAKEOVER MATHS



FULL CIRCLE  
Home Republic  
Natural Round  
**rug**, \$179.96,  
from Adairs.



WHITE ON  
Stockholm  
**coffee table**,  
\$269, from  
Freedom.



SOFT SPOT  
2 x Sanela  
**cushion covers**,  
\$10 each,  
from Ikea.



ON THE  
BRIGHT SIDE  
Copper & Wood  
**table lamp**, \$20,  
from Kmart.



GOOD AS GOLD  
3 x Knitted  
**cushions**,  
\$12, each  
from Kmart.



MAKE IT MINT  
Single **table**  
with 3 legs  
in Mint, \$20,  
from Target.



SQUARE ONE  
2 x Picardy  
knitted  
**cushions** in  
Aqua, \$20 each,  
from Target.

TEXT SAMANTHA BRENNAN  
STYLING JACKIE BROWN  
PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES HENRY



## after

## Sitting pretty

Keeping the sofa and an armchair, a favourite family antique, Jackie added a rug, coffee table and media unit.



## 'Tis the season

Metallic giftwrap suits the look of this room.



## Easy updates

Bargain ornaments can be swapped next year.



## Natural choice

The neutral rug adds texture and character.



## Upon reflection

The copper lamp is a modern addition.

**total  
makeover  
cost:**

**\$992.87**



**HANG ON**  
Vinter 2015  
**decorations**,  
\$5.99 for 5,  
from Ikea.

**PLAY IT COOL**  
Pattern  
**throw**, 127cm  
x 152cm, \$29,  
from Target.

**CLEAR CHOICE**  
Bestå **TV bench** in  
White Stained Oak Effect  
with custom additions,  
\$275, from Ikea.

**CLASSY GLASS**  
Fleur Rose  
**bowl**, 24cm,  
\$29.95, from  
Freedom.

**BLUE BEAUTY**  
Vinter 2015  
**decorations**,  
\$24.99 for  
three, from Ikea.

**HAVE A BALL**  
Vinter 2015  
**decorations**,  
\$2.99 for 12,  
from Ikea.

**HOLD IT**  
Washable paper  
Hamper **bag** in Spot  
& Chevron, \$39.99,  
from Spotlight



# XMAS SETTINGS

## GOLDEN GLITTER

\$


**BEST  
BUY  
\$10**

**GOLD PLATED**  
Christmas Celebrate **plate set**, \$10  
for set of 3, from Target.  
Quality porcelain plates that dazzle.



**DISCO RUDOLPH**  
Standing Glitter Reindeer **decoration**,  
\$10, from Target.  
At 21cm tall this is enough sparkle to  
complement, not take over, your room.



**TREE GLEE**  
Paper **tree decoration**, \$16.95 for 2,  
from Kikki.K.  
Easy to assemble and a fun touch for  
the mantelpiece or table.

## TRADITIONAL

\$



**HO HO HO**  
Heritage **Santa Bell** in Red,  
\$5, from Target.  
Hang this fun Santa piece on the  
tree or on the front door.

**BEST  
BUY  
\$17.99**


**BY CANDLELIGHT**  
Smychka artificial **wreath**, \$14.99, from  
Ikea. Homemaker pillar **candle** in Berry,  
\$3, from Kmart.  
An artificial wreath that doesn't look dated.



**SEASON'S EATINGS**  
24-piece **cutlery set** in Red,  
\$15, from Kmart.  
Soft-touch handles make these  
utensils easy for littlies to use.

## RUSTIC CHARM

\$



**STAR SIGN**  
Heritage glitter **star ornament**  
in Gold, \$3, from Target.  
A traditional-style ornament that  
will never go out of fashion.



**THE GATHERING**  
Morgan & Finch rattan  
**napkin ring** in Natural, \$3.95,  
from Bed Bath N' Table.  
Perfect for alfresco festive lunches.



**JINGLE BELL ROCKER**  
Morgan & Finch "Jingle Bell"  
**decoration**, \$4.95,  
from Bed Bath N' Table.  
Pieces in Copper and Soft Gold.



Put the shine on your festive spread with **sparks of gold or red**.  
It's the difference between déjà vu and making new memories.

\$\$\$



**GET IN SHAPE**  
Svenska Hem Stilla **shaped dishes**,  
\$26.95 for 3, from Kikki.K.  
These ultra-chic dishes are suitable  
to be used through all seasons.



**DELUXE DINING**  
Gold **cutlery**, \$49 for 5-piece set,  
from West Elm.  
Electroplated stainless steel makes this cutlery  
set robust enough to last year-round.



**GOLDEN TOUCH**  
Tia **vase** in Gold, \$49.95,  
from Freedom.  
An elegant vase that outshines its floral  
contents, this adds a touch of luxe.

\$\$\$



**DINE AND SHINE**  
Metallic **napkins**, \$28 for set of 4,  
from West Elm.  
These are woven with a hint of  
sparkle to whisper "celebration".



**TRES CHIC TRAY**  
Butler Square **tray**,  
\$29.95, from Zanui.  
Wide sides mean your drinks won't  
spill while you're carrying them.



**BRANCHING OUT**  
Smychka artificial **garland**,  
\$29.99, from Ikea.  
Perfect for lacing around platters and table  
settings to keep the festive feel flowing.

\$\$\$

**BEST  
BUY  
\$13.96**



**TWINKLE TWINKLE**  
Twinkle **lights**, \$13.96 for 3m,  
from Typo.  
Strung on bendy copper wire these  
are the perfect finishing touch.



**AGAINST THE GRAIN**  
Beach House **decorative  
wooden tree**, \$15, from Target.  
A subtle festive touch that suits  
a beachy-style home.



**WE'RE STUMPED**  
Wooden **tree stump**, \$129.95 for  
set of 3, from Domayne.  
Effective for displaying decorations  
or serving food and drinks. **H+**



# SUMMER

## ENTERTAINING

take the party outside in style



Changing the look of your entertainment area has never been easier. Pick your favourite canopy colours and make your outdoor space pop with Kaleido's range of stylish outdoor umbrellas. Simply swap colours for different occasions. It's maximum durability, UV protection and sleek entertaining all in one!

Visit [kaleidoumbrellas.com.au](http://kaleidoumbrellas.com.au)



Take a load off this summer in a Two Trees hammock. The modern style, easy install and comfortable fit make them perfect for long, lazy days outside. Relax and enjoy the outdoors in high-quality hammocks designed by Aussies, for Aussies.

Visit [twotreeshammocks.com.au](http://twotreeshammocks.com.au)



« Haven lanterns and candle holders add a touch of style and candle-lit ambience around your home. Use the Haven range inside or outside for summer entertaining. Available in five fashionable themes: Modern Provincial, Pure Reflections, Coastal Chic, Asian Fusion, and Global Influences.

Visit [haveninspired.com.au](http://haveninspired.com.au)



» Kill the bugs before they kill the party. Gecko, the incredible insect killer attracts and kills flying pests. It's weatherproof, made tough to survive all kinds of extremes and can be placed by the table or hung on the wall for no-fuss, pest-free dining. Stay outside longer and keep the fun going with Gecko Zappers.

Visit [geckoinssectkillers.com.au](http://geckoinssectkillers.com.au)



» Create a mozzie free zone by placing multiple Waxworks citronella products around your outdoor area. Waxworks offers a vibrant range of candles, coils, torches, oils, incense sticks & burners to complement your outdoor space.

Visit [waxworksworks.com.au](http://waxworksworks.com.au)

Make those long balmy lunches and festive garden parties events to remember with these must-have outdoor styling and lifestyle products.

Mayo Hardware advertising feature

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**BUNNINGS**  
warehouse



# MY BACKYARD

( GET BACK TO NATURE )

**CHRISTMAS  
OUTDOORS  
& GROW  
YOUR  
OWN**

**Natural centrepiece**

Make a striking decorative bough with a strong branch and greenery from the garden. Hang with twine.

**Festive  
florals**

Use fresh flowers in a colour to suit your scheme.

**DIY decorations**

Spray-paint pine cones for an effective and affordable decoration. >

**THIS MONTH** CHRISSY TABLE SETTINGS, A SENSORY GARDEN & VEGIE PLANNER



# CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINING

Our homeowners this month share their gorgeous **Chrissy table settings** to help inspire your family festivities.

## Natural & relaxed

Kahlia's daughter Charlie puts the finishing touches to the Christmas table. Tablecloth from Adairs. Domayne vase holding anemones. Karen Walker Champagne flutes from Myer.



**HEAD OUT ONTO THE DECK** and enjoy your Christmas lunch al fresco. That's exactly what our three homeowners Briony (page 44), Kahlia (page 52), and Tess (page 60) will be doing this year. Here, you can see their very different Chrissy table setting styles, chosen to complement their interior, location and, of course, their personal taste.

## NATURAL ELEGANCE (THIS PAGE)

"As we live in the Blue Mountains I wanted a natural, relaxed table setting inspired by the bush," Kahlia says. The hanging centrepiece (on the previous page) made with greenery from the garden and sprigs of pine and ivy sets the scene. Beneath it, the palette of white and linen is teamed with more foliage, including a sprig of wattle on the homemade sponge cake. "The accessories I've used here are not limited to Christmas," Kahlia says.

## AUSTRALIAN COASTAL (RIGHT)

Tess loves the natural Aussie look when it comes to festive table decorating – she uses soft pink tones, crisp whites, vintage accessories and native foliage like eucalyptus and gumnuts. "It suits our family well because it has a relaxed, warm and casual feel that works perfectly with our location in Geraldton, WA, and the way we entertain," Tess says. And when it comes to choice of dessert, Tessa can't resist her Mum's pavlova. "It screams Australian Christmas, even more so in a wreath design," she says.



### Green touch

Vintage washed linen napkins, from Adairs, adorned with a sprig of fresh pine from the Christmas tree.





## Classic Christmas

Briony is a traditionalist and loves a red and green theme when it comes to Christmas – “There aren’t many occasions when you can combine these colours so cheerfully,” she says. A crisp white tablecloth and plain white tableware provide the perfect blank canvas for sparkly gold and silver accessories, such as candelabras and lanterns. Crackers and baubles are a must, but tinsel is a big no-no for Briony!



**GREAT IDEA**  
Xmas wreath pavlova

**Vintage vibe**  
Heirloom antique cutlery, coral check linen napkins and native foliage make for a pretty place setting.

**“The most effective table settings are simple with well thought out elements and colours.” TESSA**

### Cool crimson

A simple bunch of king proteas complements this unfussy contemporary coastal theme.





# Food that's **MADE WITH LOVE**

I enjoy looking after myself  
and taking time to prepare  
healthy meals for those  
I adore – big and small.  
A happy life starts with  
eating well. Healthy  
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Available in  
6 delicious  
flavours for  
your friend.



## **NEW easy single serve pouch.**

BENEFUL Medleys are packed with tender meat, wholesome grains and vitamin-rich veggies, all wrapped up in a home-style gravy - perfect for mixing with dry dog food. Preparing a healthy and delicious meal for your favourite little friend has never been better – from the moment you open the pouch right down to squeezing out the very last drop of gravy.



### **FREE NUTRITION GUIDE**

Use the free **viewa** app and scan this page to check-out the free interactive nutrition guide for your furry friend!



**TIP**

Homemade infusions are a lovely Christmas gift idea for foodies.

**MAKE IT YOURSELF**

# INFUSED VINEGAR

Spruce up summer salads with a delicious **DIY herb infusion**.

**BEGIN WITH** 1 LIME; 2 BAY LEAVES; A FEW ROSEMARY SPRIGS; 3 RED & YELLOW CHILLIES; VINEGAR; VEGIE PEELER; PAPER TOWEL; STERILISED GLASS BOTTLE OR OIL DRIZZLER WITH STOPPER/POURER; FUNNEL

**IT'S A CINCH** to make infused herb vinegars. Choose herbs (or fruit, if you prefer) with flavours, colours and shapes you love. When it comes to the vinegar, use a high-quality red or white wine vinegar or apple cider vinegar.

**STEP 1** Peel the rind from half the lime. Wash all ingredients thoroughly and pat dry with paper towel.

**STEP 2** Put the lime rind, chilli and herbs into the clean bottle. Using a funnel, carefully pour the vinegar into the bottle until it reaches the top.

**STEP 3** Leave mixture in direct sunlight for two to three weeks to allow flavours to infuse. Taste occasionally and, when well flavoured, move to a cool spot. Keeps for three to four months. **H+**

**DIY dressing**

To make a salad dressing, mix 4 tbsp olive oil with 1 tbsp infused vinegar (see right), a pinch of salt and pepper and a pinch of sugar. Whisk well and drizzle over salad. Yum!

**SHOPPING LIST**

lime



rosemary



vinegar



red &amp; yellow chillies



bay leaves



## WEEK 1

### HOLIDAY RENTAL PROPERTIES

If you're the lucky owner of a holiday rental, the first week of December is a great time to ensure its landscapes are maintained. **Trim the hedges, and ensure paths are neat and tidy and lawns are mown** before the rental peak of Christmas and New Year hits.

## WEEK 2

### CLEAR GUTTERS

If you still haven't got around to doing this unfavourable job since autumn's falling of leaves, then get inspired and think of how appreciative your gutters will be next time it rains. I always clean my gutters in the morning before the sun gets too hot and **your garden will love the nutrients from the decomposing leaf plug**, so don't throw it in your rubbish!

## WEEK 3

### WEED POT PLANTS

In warmer weather, pot plants don't need the extra stress of competing with weeds for water so make sure you **eliminate the competition and remove any weeds**. For those pots restricted to a sunny position where things haven't survived, try repotting with succulents for the rest of summer for better results.

## WEEK 4

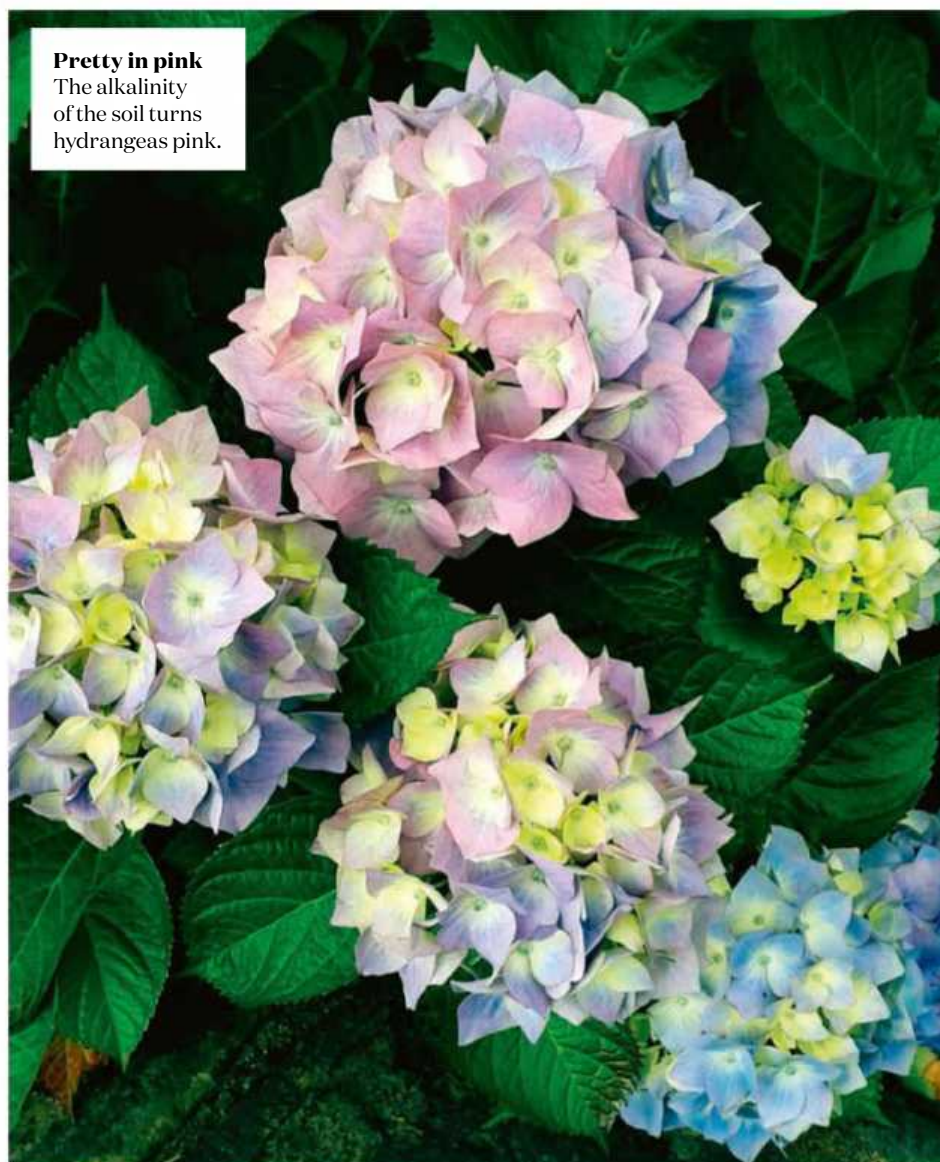
### REMOVE DEAD FLOWERS FROM PERENNIALS

Once your perennials have flowered, it's good practice to **remove any dead flower stems from the plant and give it a light trim to encourage more flowers to bloom** over the coming months. If dead flowers are left on the plant, it will prove far less productive in future blooms.

## GARDEN PLANNER

# WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN THIS MONTH

Gardening expert **Dale Vine** shares his must-do list for the **month of December**.



#### **Pretty in pink**

The alkalinity of the soil turns hydrangeas pink.

## What to plant:

Summer is finally here, so let the entertaining and backyard barbecues begin. **Enjoy the spoils of your hard work in the garden throughout the year.** With family coming over for summer special occasions, you'll want your garden to impress with summer flowers for alfresco dining. Fragrant

roses and frangipani will be a treat, with their scents becoming stronger in the evenings. Hydrangeas, poincianas, agapanthus, dianthus, clematis and, my wife's favourites, peonies will all be in bloom, and are just a few of an array of summer flowering plants that are sure to impress in your garden.

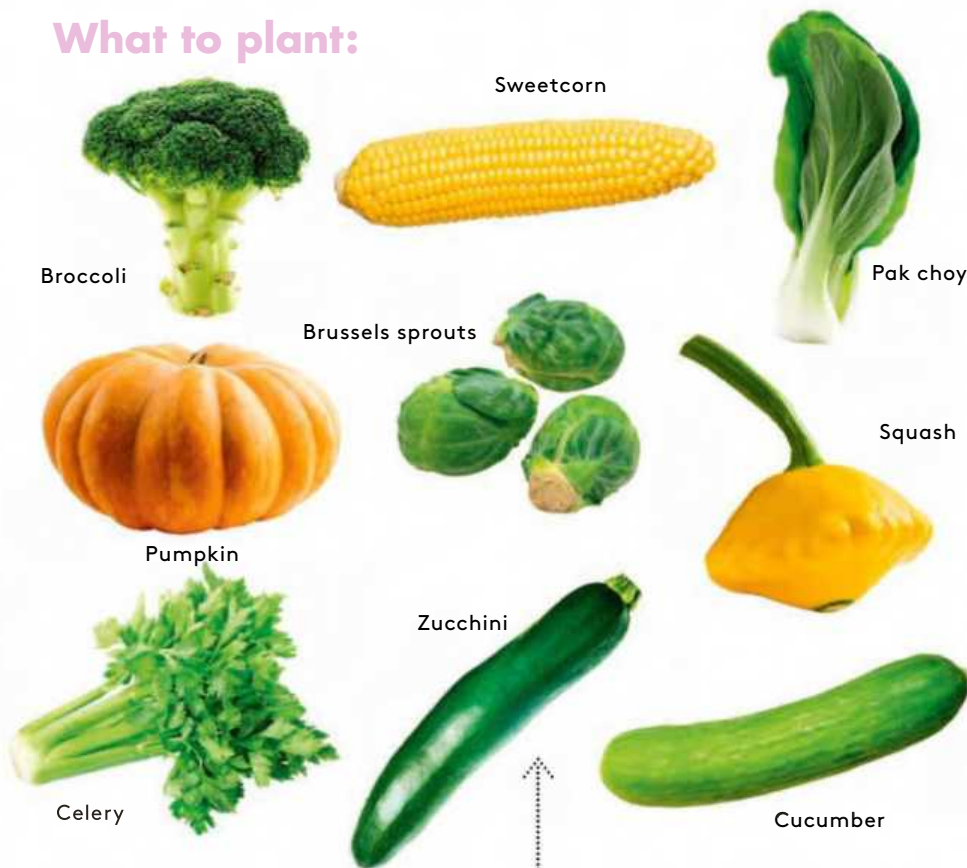


## VEGIE PLANNER

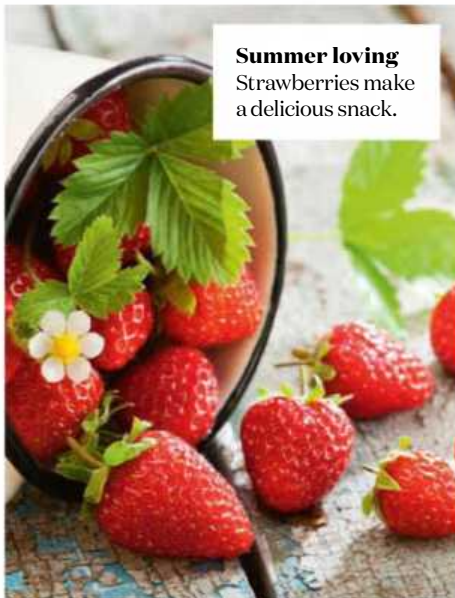
# WHAT TO DO IN THE VEGIE PATCH THIS MONTH

Plant and harvest your vegies, take care of summer seedlings and get rid of pests.

## What to plant:



**Summer loving**  
Strawberries make a delicious snack.



Give your new crops a fighting chance against birds and possums. These animals love eating new seedlings, so set up some scaring devices and even add **fine-weave netting** over your crop as a more failproof method.

## Harvest now

Here's what ready to go: capsicum, chillies, gherkins, onions, peas, potatoes, rhubarb, tomatoes and strawberries. A lot of vegies available now are great eaten raw as a snack. **Fresh peas, gherkins and strawberries don't always make it back to the kitchen.** Cherry tomatoes and capsicum are great with cheese on bickies. **H+**

## WEEK 1

### SUMMER SALAD CROPS

Throughout the summer months, it's a great idea to **continually sow small quantities** of summer salad vegies. This way you can have a lasting supply of fresh salad ingredients rather than a large quantity all ready to harvest at the one time.

## WEEK 2

### FRAGILE WHEN YOUNG

As the summer seedlings are settling in and starting to take root, it only takes one hot day without water and these fragile shoots could be wilted beyond saving. I think of my vegies and pot plants every time I watch a weather forecast predicting a scorcher and set my alarm a little earlier to **give them an early morning soak** before work. A quick check at the end of the day means you will be able to spot the signs of heat exhaustion.

## WEEK 3

### BLOCK PLANTING

By planting pollinating vegetables, such as sweetcorn, in block formation (30cm apart each direction) rather than conventional rows, you will be **encouraging the pollen from the male flowers to fall in the wind**, and land on female parts of the plant. This will assist in self pollination, and pollen is far less likely to be wasted.

## WEEK 4

### WEEDS AND PESTS

Weeds develop root systems specifically for absorbing water before it has time to penetrate the soil and be absorbed by your vegetable's roots. **Pests, such as caterpillars, are abundant in numbers** and their favourite meal is the fresh new growth of seedlings. Eliminate both weeds and pests as best you can – by hand is best to prevent chemical contamination of your edible crop.



### Hey, good looking

Thoughtful garden design – consider the bordering, furniture, planting, zoning, and screening – will result in a visually appealing outdoor space.



### ABOUT DALE

You may recognise **Dale Vine** from TV's *The Block*, but he's actually a landscaper by trade (and our garden guru!). You can follow Dale on Instagram: @vineyd

### GARDENING ADVICE

# HOW TO CREATE A SENSORY GARDEN

Garden expert **Dale Vine** reveals how to create an outdoor space that'll stimulate the senses.

### Listen to the leaves

Tree canopies not only provide greenery and cool shade, but the calming sound of rustling leaves.

**THE FIVE SENSES** of sight, sound, touch, taste and smell can be applied in a landscape scenario to create a garden design that can stimulate us on a number of sensory levels. With some clever choices a sensory garden can easily be achieved, and the great thing is that it will prove **educational and fun for the kids, too!** You don't need to create a garden that looks like a playground for this to work, you just need to be clever with plant selection and design to achieve a beautiful garden that doubles as a sensory delight. Here, we look at simple ways to incorporate each of the five senses into your garden.

### VISUAL APPEAL

Sight is the easiest sense to work into a garden design as it is often the aspect gardens are designed around anyway. Incorporating **visually appealing plants** is a must in any garden. But be clever and selective with your planting to make the overall look visually appealing: flowering perennials, layering of plants at different heights, screens or hedges to form backdrops, and rows of the same species to elongate areas. It's not only plants that are used to appeal to the visual sense; features such as **statues, water features and lighting** can all be used to draw the eye to a specific area.



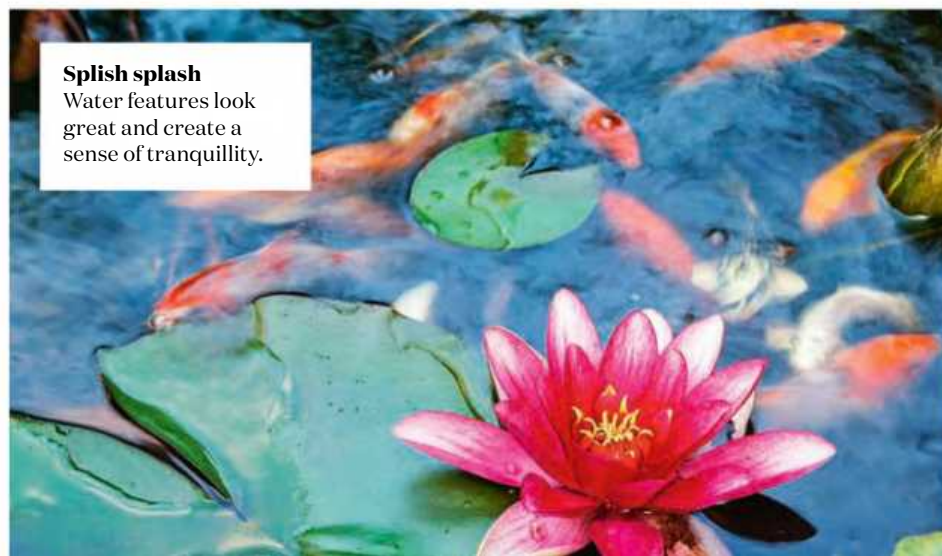




**Lush layers**  
Using plants as screens or living wall features adds texture and visual interest.

## TEXTURE

A soft lawn will feel great under bare feet, and a **loose pebble path** will not only feel like you're on an adventure, it will sound like it too. Although there are lots of different "feeling" materials that can be used for surfaces, **plants with textured leaves** are the real key in achieving an interesting sensory garden to touch. Plants such as cushion bush (*Leucophyta brownii*) and Lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantine*) will feel soft, whereas *Grevillea* 'Bronze Rambler' or creeping junipers (*Juniperus horizontalis*) will provide a prickly feel. **Succulents are great** for sensory gardens as they have such variants in their leaf shape, yet remain fleshy to touch. Aloe vera plants have a combination of fleshy leaves with sharp "teeth" on their edges and when broken off contain gel that can soothe and moisturise damaged skin. When choosing a textured plant, check the tag to make sure it's not a common skin irritant.



**Splish splash**  
Water features look great and create a sense of tranquillity.

## FRAGRANCE

Alongside sight, smell is the sensory component plants are often chosen for in garden design. To be able to close your eyes and have the sweet scent of **roses, lavender, jasmine, frangipani, gardenia or daphne**, just to name a few, drifting in the breeze, is one of the most sensory stimulating experiences that can be had in a garden. When you get an **unexpected, beautiful floral fragrance**, it's second nature to want to locate it and experience more. It's this experience that has led to replicated creations in everything from scented candles to perfumes, but for me you can't beat the real deal of what nature provides for the nostrils.

## SOUND

Incorporating sound into a garden can be achieved in a number of ways. As mentioned earlier, **paths and surfaces made with loose materials** such as pebbles, scoria (volcanic rock) or crushed sea shells will let you know when someone is wandering around your garden. Plants such as bamboo can provide subtle movement and sound and we all know the weather is changing when the leaves in the canopy of a large tree start rustling. **Trickling or running water is a tranquil sound** for most and can easily be achieved in an urn or bowl, using a small pump to create enough movement just to break the water's surface. Wind chimes create a peaceful environment on a calm day, but can have the opposite effect during high winds. The best and most affordable way of achieving sound in any garden is to use **bird-attracting plants** and let the sound of happy chirping birds come to you.

## MY BACKYARD



**Sweet scent**  
The frangipani has a lush, rich floral fragrance.

## EDIBLE

The final sense in our sensory garden is often the favourite – yep, you guessed it, taste! There's only one way to appeal to taste in a garden and that's to have **edible plants**. When creating a sensory garden you don't need to have a big vegie patch to incorporate taste, you can transform a small area of a garden bed with a few rows of vegies, or use a pot or hanging basket to grow small plants or herbs. Anything from a sour **lemon or other fruit species, to strawberries, fresh baby carrots or cherry tomatoes** would all be great options for fresh produce you can pick and eat on the spot. Whatever your tastebuds desire, whether it be sweet, sour, soothing or hot, there's a vegie or fruit to suit.

So, on that note, get gardening! If you incorporate an element into your garden that stimulates each of the five senses, you will have an interesting outdoor area that'll be the perfect place to relax, play and entertain this Christmas. Enjoy! ■



**Eat it!**  
Turn a small area of a garden bed into your very own organic vegie plot.



# the beauty of HEALTH

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The Health Tracker is a free online tool to help you achieve your health goals

1

Log on to the Health Tracker and create your account



2

65/100

Answer the questions to get your unique health score

3

Access meal and activity planners from health experts to boost your score



4

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## HEALTH



## ADVICE



**PLUS  
ADOPT A PET  
CHRISTMAS  
TREE TRENDS  
SCOTTY'S DIY  
ORNAMENTS**

## TRAVEL



## PETS



**THIS MONTH** HEALTHY HEARING, CHRISTMAS TABLES & SUMMER FESTIVALS



### Time to celebrate

Enjoy the Christmas spirit at festivals in your local area.

SUMMER FUN

# FESTIVE EVENTS

Get in on the Christmas action, with **summer festivals** for all the family.

NIGHT  
NOODLE  
MARKETS IN  
VIC

**WHAT:** Night Noodle Markets

**WHEN:** Until Sunday  
November 29, from 5pm

**WHERE:** Birrarung Marr Park,  
Melbourne CBD

**WHY:** A veritable feast of tantalising Asian fare right before your eyes, lit up in festive lights. As in previous years, the standard of food will be top notch. Guest chef Diego Munoz from Astrid & Gaston, listed at number 14 on the World's 50 Best Restaurants, will be serving up Peruvian Japanese fare. No one will leave hungry.

**MORE INFO:** [Melbourne.goodfoodmonth.com/noodlemarkets](http://Melbourne.goodfoodmonth.com/noodlemarkets)

**SUMMER IS THE TIME** to get out of the house and enjoy the sunshine. Add Christmas to the equation, and you have a recipe for serious family fun. Local carols are always a favourite, as are markets and Christmas lights. But if you're looking further afield for the best food and wine, music, movies or entertainment for the kids, there's plenty to keep you busy, no matter where you are across the country. Here's a look at what's happening in Australia's capital cities this year.

### Sounds good

Enjoy the music and spectacular summer weather.

CLASSICAL  
CONCERT IN  
WA

**WHAT:** Symphony In The City

**WHEN:** Saturday December 12, 7.30pm

**WHERE:** Langley Park, Perth

**WHY:** For seven years this free event has drawn Perth residents of all ages together for an enthralling night of classical music under the stars. Even those unfamiliar with classical music will enjoy the vibe – especially since music from *Raiders Of The Lost Ark* is on the set list! – and everyone delights in the thrilling fireworks display at the end.

**MORE INFO:** [Waso.com.au](http://Waso.com.au)



**CHRISTMAS  
LIGHTS IN  
SA**



**Bright idea**  
Homes will glow with Christmas decorations.

**WHAT:** Lights Of Lobethal  
**WHEN:** December 13 to 30  
**WHERE:** Lobethal, Adelaide Hills  
**WHY:** When a festival has been running for more than 60 years you know it's going to be good. Billed as "the largest community Christmas light display in the Southern Hemisphere", this festival showcases the work of the village of Lobethal's residents, who deck out their houses and other key buildings with a dazzling array of Christmas lights every year. There are also market stalls operating.  
**MORE INFO:**  
[Lightsoflobethal.com.au](http://Lightsoflobethal.com.au)

**Watch & see**  
Gather the kids and go to the movies – outside!

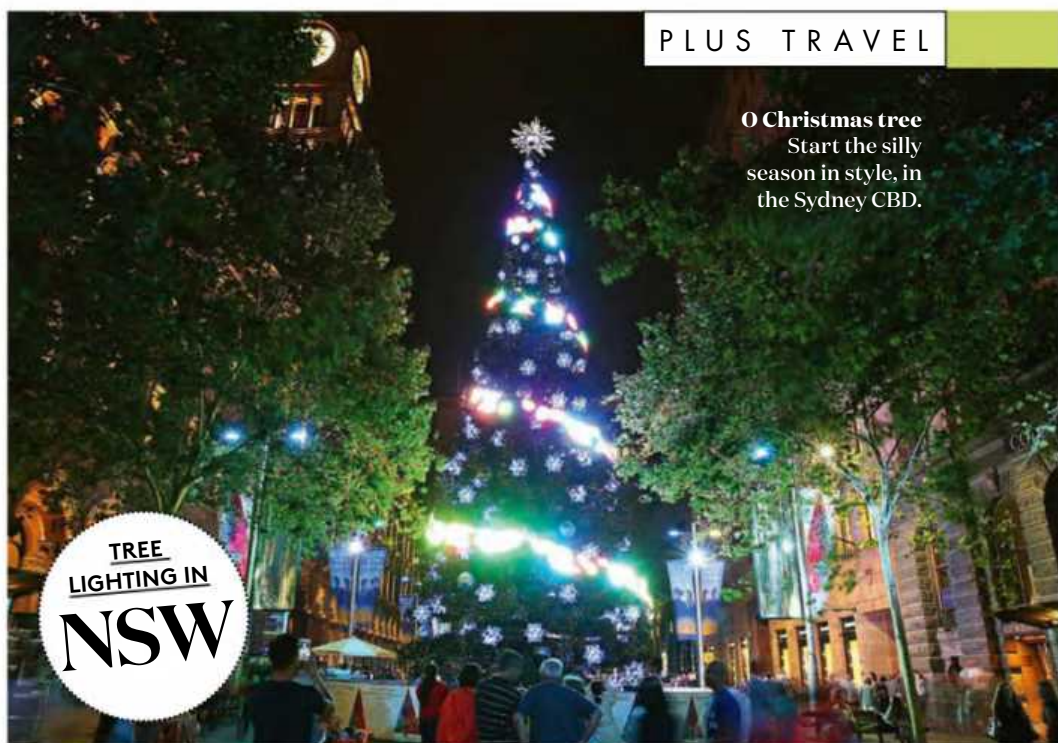
**OUTDOOR  
CINEMA IN  
QLD**



**WHAT:** Christmas Cinema Series  
**WHEN:** December 17 to 23  
**WHERE:** Streets Beach, South Bank  
**WHY:** *Elf*, *The Muppet Christmas Carol* and *Home Alone* are just a few of the classic Christmas movies being shown at Brisbane's temporary annual outdoor cinema. It's a great excuse to gather the family and enjoy drinks and snacks, before cuddling up under blankets to watch a heart-warming flick. Better yet, dive into the water and watch the big screen while afloat!  
**MORE INFO:** [Visitbrisbane.com.au](http://Visitbrisbane.com.au)

**PLUS TRAVEL**

**O Christmas tree**  
Start the silly season in style, in the Sydney CBD.



**TREE  
LIGHTING IN  
NSW**

**WHAT:** Martin Place Concert and Tree Lighting  
**WHEN:** November 26, 6pm to 8.30pm  
**WHERE:** Martin Place, Sydney CBD  
**WHY:** What better way to get into the spirit of the season than by taking the family to watch Santa light up Sydney

city's spectacular Christmas tree? The festivities begin with a free concert featuring Justine Clarke and the Sydney Philharmonic Choir. There's a stunning fireworks display to round off the night.  
**MORE INFO:** [Whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://Whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

**FOODIE  
FUN IN  
TAS**

**Pull up a beanbag**  
Relax and enjoy the food, wine and entertainment.



**WHAT:** The Taste Of Tasmania  
**WHEN:** December 28, 2015 to January 3, 2016  
**WHERE:** Hobart waterfront  
**WHY:** Perfectly timed to coincide with the arrival of the Sydney to Hobart Race competitors, this large-scale food and entertainment event is a Tassie institution. Free to enter (except for the New Year's Eve party), the festival boasts a range of stallholders presenting platters of gourmet foods and wine.  
**MORE INFO:**  
[TheTasteOfTasmania.com.au](http://TheTasteOfTasmania.com.au)





#### Check your volume

When wearing earplugs, if other people can hear your music, it is too loud.

#### HEALTH TIPS

# HEAR, HEAR

Many of us love to pump up the music and use our smartphones with earplugs on a regular basis, but experts warn these habits are **seriously impacting our hearing.**

**OUT OF ALL OUR SENSES**, our hearing is probably the one we take for granted the most. And we're often unaware that some of our everyday habits, such as using earphones to listen to music with the volume at maximum, may be adversely affecting our hearing – and we might not notice until the damage is done. Four million Australians are affected by hearing loss, and the most significant cause is not ageing, but exposure to excessive noise. No matter what your age, there are things you can do to help keep your ears functioning at their peak.

## Little ones

### GET THEM CHECKED

When a baby is born, standard health checks include a hearing test. In Australia, parents of newborns are offered a **hearing screening** for their baby once it is 12 hours old. If initial results are unclear, the baby may be referred to an audiologist for further tests. Early detection and treatment of hearing challenges can make a positive difference to a child's development in later years.

Sharon Plunkett is a hearing advisor with Better Hearing Australia (Victoria), an independent organisation that offers hearing-related information and advice. She says, "We would advocate for parents to screen their babies to check on their hearing. The testing is non-invasive and it is a worldwide practice that occurs where resources allow it."

As well as hearing screening for newborns, Plunkett says parents should also be aware of middle ear infections in young and older babies. "If there is any suspicion of ear problems, parents should see their doctor. They don't want to leave things too long," she says.

Visit [Betterhearing.org.au](http://Betterhearing.org.au) for more tips.

#### TIP

**THINK YOUR CHILD'S HEARING IS IMPAIRED? CALL THEIR NAME FROM A DISTANCE. IF THEY DON'T RESPOND, TRY AGAIN THEN DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR GP.**





**TIP**

USING COTTON BUDS TO CLEAN YOUR EARS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA

## Every age EAR CARE

Other things to look out for are **ear infections, sinus problems** (which can temporarily affect hearing if not checked out properly) and **swimming-related infections**. Sharon says using cotton buds to clean your ears is not a good idea. "They push wax further into your ear and your eardrum. Wax is good, it's how the ear cleans itself naturally. Leave your ears alone, they can look after themselves when it comes to cleaning." If you insist on ear cleaning, however, she recommends getting used to gently wiping your outer ear with a soft towel or tissue after a shower.

If wax builds up in your ear to the point of discomfort or it is affecting your hearing, the best procedure is to have **ear suctioning** done by an ear, nose and throat specialist rather than having a GP use a syringe to remove the ear wax. "The community is generally unaware that suctioning is the better option; it is safe and very efficient," she says.

**HEARING AIDS**

They can cost anything between \$1000 per ear at the bottom end to more than \$10,000; and they can need **replacing** every eight to 10 years. Visit [Hearingservices.gov.au](http://Hearingservices.gov.au) to see if you qualify for financial help.

**20s & 30s****LOW VOLUME**

A major issue in this age group is the damage caused by **loud noise**.

"The duration of the high noise levels that we subject ourselves to today is far higher than it has ever been," says Sharon. "This has consequences. Young people don't realise they are overdoing it, there are no warning signs, generally speaking, that you are damaging your hearing. Over a prolonged period of time if you keep up being impacted by loud noises, whether it is music or parties or whatever, you will end up with hearing loss."

Sharon says if people in their 20s and 30s can make it a habit to not listen to music with headphones or earplugs, for example, with the volume turned up high or for too long, it could save their hearing.

**TIP**

AS A GENERAL RULE, SET THE VOLUME OF YOUR MUSIC TO A LEVEL WHERE YOU CAN HEAR SOMEONE AT ARM'S LENGTH WITHOUT THEM HAVING TO SHOUT.

**50s & 60s****BEING AWARE**

Sharon says that most of us don't experience any great problems with our ears until we reach our 50s, 60s and older. While this may seem like a blessing, it is in fact **a curse**.

"By the time you turn 60, you have more than a 50 per cent chance of hearing loss and every five years after that, the percentage gets higher," she says.

"By the time we see people in their 70s and beyond, we find it extremely rare to see anyone who hasn't had hearing loss or problems, and it's causing issues in their lives with communication, social interaction and basic everyday living."

There's a perception that hearing loss is simply a result of ageing, but one in six Australians has some degree of hearing loss – across all age groups.

She says what people don't understand is that if they'd had their hearing loss **diagnosed** at a much earlier age their chances of saving their hearing would have been far higher.

"Certainly if others around you complain that you're not hearing well, you ought to have a hearing test," she says. "The first port of call should be your doctor. We do know the average person takes six to 10 years from the time they first notice there may be something going on with their hearing, before doing something." **H+**

**TIP**

WHEN BOOKING DINNER WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS HEARING LOSS, CHECK THAT THE RESTAURANT'S ACOUSTICS ALLOW FOR EASY LISTENING.



# HOW TO: XMAS TREES

What look are you going for this year? James has four Xmas tree **styles for you.**



## ABOUT JAMES

**James Treble** is a qualified colour consultant/interior designer, with over 20 years' experience within the building and design industries.

### SPACE SAVER

This tree takes up hardly any space and is easy to take down.



DECOR SOLUTIONS

WITH JAMES TREBLE

**THE CHRISTMAS TREE** has a long history dating back hundreds of years, with Queen Victoria being credited as making it popular in England and around the world in 1846. These days, a decorated tree is a staple part of Christmas celebrations – they come in all colours, shapes and sizes and they can be seen in windows of homes all around the country.

But what type of tree should you have, and if you want to be on-trend, how can you achieve a stylish look that suits your interior style? Well, I've got four styles to inspire you...

## TRADITIONAL TREE WITH A TWIST

Real Christmas trees look and smell amazing, but this year I've settled for a **high-quality fake tree** which looks like the real thing without the mess!

Traditional red and gold decorations are still the most popular choice by far,

but I encourage you to think outside the box and find an exciting new colour palette that suits your home.

Whether it's a dramatic black and white, a stunning blue and silver, or maybe a very on-trend teal, pink and gold scheme, limiting the colour palette will help to create cohesion.

### How to get the look

In our house, I make sure that the palette is restricted to two or three colours for a dramatic effect – the **repetition of colours creates a strong statement** and allows the different shapes and sizes of the decorations to really stand out. As I change our colour scheme every year, I'd be crazy to go out and buy a complete new set of decorations. Instead, I recycle and revamp the ones we already have before buying more.

**Try spray-painting last year's baubles** or even covering them with coloured glitter to suit your scheme.

## THE RECYCLED TREE – NATURAL & NEUTRAL

If you're wishing to become a little more environmentally friendly this Chrissy tree style is perfect for you!

This tree – **it can even be a painted branch** – is all about using a mixture of natural and neutral tones and finishes for a more-textured less-colourful look.

### How to get the look

Many of the decorations for this look can be handmade. With some sewing, hand-stitching or glue-gunning, you can **create stunning decorations using everyday items** like fabric offcuts, hessian, paper, string and even buttons. If you wish to add a splash of colour to this look, keep it minimal and go for a softer tone. It's as much about the process as it is the end result – enjoy being creative and get the kids involved! Your not-so-perfect handmade decorations will have a unique charm all of their own.





**TRADITIONAL TREE**  
Keep the palette simple and don't over-decorate.



**RECYCLED TREE**  
A branch painted white is a chic and affordable Chrissy tree option.

## TRY IT: MAKE EDIBLE DECORATIONS

**“Limiting the colour palette will help to create cohesion.”**



### Make it...

Biscuit decorations are fun to make with the kids.



### hang it...

Lolly-filled paper cones can be gifted to guests.



### ...eat it!

Experiment with different colours and shapes.

## THE SPACE-SAVING TREE – 2-DIMENSIONAL

This is a great idea for those in an apartment or if you're tight on space. The trick here is to create a **Christmas-tree shape on a wall** made out of mixed items. This look is so effective and simple, and you can put it together in no time. It's all about creating a tree that reflects your personality.

### How to get the look

Collect a range of images and objects to work for your tree shape. Images cut out of magazines, **postcards, family photos, keyrings**, the list is endless.

On the wall, measure out the width for the base of your tree shape, leaving enough room underneath for presents, and then work out the centrepoint

for the top of your tree. Using Blu-Tack, removable hooks and double-sided tape, start filling in the triangle shape with all of your objects and your tree will come alive. Another alternative is to **hang a picture of a tree** then stick on your own decorations.

## THE EDIBLE TREE – MAKE & BAKE

This tree style is all about making your own decorations out of food – **biscuits, lolly bags, candy canes** – and hanging them off the tree making it colourful, whimsical and delicious!

For your edible decorations, take inspiration from seasonal shapes like bells, Santa and reindeer. There are plenty of cookie cutters available, too.

### How to get the look

If you like the look of biscuit decorations, make a few batches in different shapes and add your own designs and colours with **icing and edible glitter** (see easy recipe, page 78). But don't forget to make a hole in the biscuits before baking so you can hang them up. Another fun idea is to thread Life Savers or **round jellies on some string** and drape them around the tree like tinsel. Candy canes and gingerbread men are always a big hit, too.

If you want a traditional look, keep the shapes and icing minimal. If you want to step it up, go crazy with the icing to create intricate, colourful designs. The edible decorations make thoughtful handmade gifts as well. **H+**



CASUAL  
BUFFET

A great idea to suit large groups of people.

elevated  
platters

candles

dynamic  
looking  
table

layering

DECOR SOLUTIONS

WITH JAMES TREBLE

HOW TO:  
CHRISTMAS TABLES

Pick up a few trade secrets with **James's expert tips** for setting a table that's styled for the season.

**WHEN IT COMES TO CHRISTMAS,** everyone has their own take on setting the table. Here are three styles that may work for you.

## CASUAL BUFFET

A buffet is a great way to feed a large group, because everyone can eat as little or as much as they want. Layering is important so everything is visible and enticing. Position savoury on one end of the table and sweets on the other (or on a separate table) so people move around. Here's how to style it:

**1** Placement of dishes is key. Consider placing the same sized dishes in rows to make selecting foods easier.

**2** Use cake stands or put platters on wrapped boxes for a dynamic look that makes food easier to reach.

**3** Set the mood by decorating between the platters with baubles, ivy or flameless candles.

**4** Repetition has great impact! Rows of similar-shaped food, or serving handles all on the same side, will make a buffet look like it's in a stylish hotel.

## FORMAL SIT-DOWN

If you want to put on a show, this is it. Stick to one colour palette and keep it consistent for an elegant look; repeat it in flowers, ribbons, name tags, napkins and decorations.

**1** A well-dressed table will get you the "wow" factor, and it can be set the day before to make things easier.

**2** Candles, flowers and tall vases with baubles look amazing, but leave room for your guests to see each other.

## FORMAL SIT-DOWN

## STACKS UP

Set all the flatware, glasses and cutlery on the table.

## CANAPES

## BITE-SIZE BEAUTIES

Serve finger foods grouped on platters for visual impact.

**3** Don't forget the name tags, and think about where to seat people. Position shy people next to chatty people to make the vibe fun.

**4** Go all-out with a theme. If it's "black and white" or "classic French", keep referring to it for the tablecloth, table settings, menu, decorations and music.

## COCKTAILS &amp; CANAPES

To keep the night on track, make sure there's plenty of food to offset those amazing cocktails! Choose ready-made dishes so they simply have to be plated and sent around. Limit cooked dishes unless the barbecue is part of the show.

**1** Presentation is always important. Little rows of savoury cases or prawns on toothpicks feel so special.

**2** Mix up hot with cold, and finger food with other dishes. Try smoked salmon and guacamole in shot glasses.

**3** Pace yourself – don't send everything out at once. Keep small amounts coming throughout the day.

**4** Theme the event: name the cocktails and work your colours or theme into the menu and choices of cocktails. Happy Christmas! ✨



## COMPETITION

# WIN! WIN! WIN!

## PRIZES TO BE WON

**TOTAL  
VALUE  
\$4450!**

We've gone all out this Christmas and lined up a collection of the **ultimate accessories** for DIY enthusiasts and the home.

## PRIZE #1

## ZANUI

Win a **Jasper Quarry two-seater sofa**, valued at up to **\$1099**, from **Zanui**. The long lines of the Jasper Quarry sofa are strengthened with an internal frame made from solid wood and MDF, while a feather wrap over high-density foam on the seat cushions and back provide comfort and black-stained timber legs lend a refined elegance. Launched in 2012, Zanui represents over 800 brands and 20,000 products, and is one of Australia's largest online destinations for furniture and homewares. [Zanui.com.au](http://Zanui.com.au)

**VALUE  
\$1099**

**VALUE  
\$1495**

## PRIZE #2

## THE RUG COLLECTION

Win a **rug designed by Melbourne textile designers Home-Work**, valued at up to **\$1495**, from **The Rug Collection**. Choose between Dynasty (above), a bold and striking rug with calming blue and grey brush strokes, or Collage (above left), which reflects the design team's love of spontaneous and random patterns. Both measure 2m x 3m and are part of The Rug Collection's latest limited-edition collection, Art Series. With only 50 rugs available in each design, they're sure to become coveted collector's items.

[Therugcollection.com.au](http://Therugcollection.com.au) >



## PRIZE #3

## BROTHER

Win a dream DIY craft kit including a **ScanNCut CMI10 cutting machine** and an **NS35 sewing machine**, both valued at up to **\$599 each**, from **Brother**. The ScanNCut is the world's first home and hobby cutting machine with a built-in scanner, so you don't need a computer to use it – just scan, cut and create! The NS35 is a reliable and easy-to-use sewing machine with an LCD screen and versatile features to suit every sewing style – choose from 70 stitch and buttonhole styles. With over 100 years in operation, Brother International is a leading global manufacturer of laser printers, label printers, Multi-Function Centres, fax machines, electronic labellers, typewriters and sewing machines.

**Brother.com.au**

**VALUE  
\$1198**



## PRIZE #4

## SONOS

Win a pair of **PLAY:1 wireless smart speakers**, valued at **\$329 each**, from **Sonos**. Bring true, pure and vibrant sound into every room of the house with these multi-room wireless speakers and the new Trueplay speaker-tuning software, which allows Sonos speakers to be aware of their environment and tune to the room acoustics. All Sonos speakers are compatible with each other, so you can always add more as you renovate or update your space.

**Sonos.com**

**VALUE  
\$658**



## ENTER THE COMP

Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page to enter the competition.

The promotion closes at 11:59pm (AEST) 27 December 2015. Limit of one entry per prize permitted per person. Entry is open to **homes+** magazine readers who are Australian residents aged 18 years and over. Draws will take place on 8 January 2016 at 3:00pm (AEST). For full terms and conditions go to [Homestolove.com.au/competitions](http://Homestolove.com.au/competitions). See page 112 for Privacy Notice. The Promoter is Bauer Media Pty Ltd (ABN 18 053 273 546). Authorised under permit numbers LTPS/15/08549, TP15/07933.





after

**TOTAL \$8700**

**Clean break**  
The render and repaint job made a world of difference.

### ABOUT CHERIE

**Cherie Barber** is a renovator on TV's *The Living Room* and runs renovating-for-profit workshops. [Cheriebarber.com.au](http://Cheriebarber.com.au)



before

**Suburban yawn**  
This house's biggest problem was the daggy orange brick.

RENO SOLUTIONS WITH CHERIE BARBER

# KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

You don't need to spend a lot to spruce up your exterior, says **Cherie Barber**.

**NO MATTER HOW AMAZING** your house is on the inside, people will judge it first from the outside, which is why your front facade is so important. If it's looking sad and unloved, that sends the wrong message. The problem often stems from the fact you've simply become blind to all the shortcomings that jump out at strangers who are seeing your place for the first time. So it's important to take a really long, hard look at what needs fixing.

Whether you're selling your house or simply want to give it a facelift, what you do the front exterior could make a huge difference. Here are a couple of

examples that show how little you need to do to achieve fantastic results.

### SWEET RENDER

The house pictured above was a more ambitious project, and part of an entire renovation, inside and out. However, the exterior makeover was straightforward. It was a matter of rendering and painting the ugly brick, high-pressure hosing the concrete surfaces, tidying the scruffy garden, adding some minimal landscaping, and modernising the entry porch with new screening. I also installed a new gate and fence for much-needed privacy. Total spend for the exterior

work, front and back, was \$8700. It turned an ugly duckling into one of the smartest houses in the street.

### PAINT IN BLUE AND GREY

The brick home pictured opposite, located in an inner-Sydney suburb, was not in a terrible state, but several things let the place down. The colour was bland, the paths had deteriorated, and it needed some personality.

I could have gone all out and ripped up and replaced the paths, done new landscaping and overhauled the entire front, but this was a low-budget facelift. So I simply painted >





**after**  
**TOTAL \$700**

**Fast facelift**  
It only took one day to make Cherie's simple changes.

## HIGH FIVE OF EXTERIOR MAKEOVERS

- 1 Never use more than three colours for your front facade. That is enough to provide contrast without making your property look like a rainbow.
- 2 Good surface preparation is key. Make sure paths, porches and brickwork are completely free of dirt and grime before painting. Old timber and metal surfaces will probably need a quick sand to remove any loose paint.
- 3 Don't go for any fads that are likely to date quickly. Choose a contemporary palette for your exterior, but something that will still look good in 10 years.
- 4 Never paint your facade in high-gloss paint. It will not provide the kind of glow you're after. A low-sheen paint will look much smarter.
- 5 Avoid a mishmash of different eras. Whether your house is Federation, Californian bungalow or Victorian, play to the design strengths of its era.

the house in a modern palette (greys are popular these days), tidied up the garden and scattered some cypress wood chips. Paving paint was a quick and effective solution for the cracked paths. For a bit of low-key "bling" I replaced the house numbers with large stainless-steel numerals, added a new porch light, and a vertical herb garden. Some triangular fretwork (only \$40 each from Bunnings) under the eaves provided heritage-style detail at low cost.

All up, I spent about \$700 on this makeover, which took one day's hard yakka, but I'd estimate it's added about \$10,000 in value. **H+**



**before**

**Dull outlook**  
The exterior of this house was dated and uninviting.





## ABOUT LISA

**Dr Lisa Chimes** is a vet at the Small Animal Specialist Hospital and appears on TV's *Dr. Lisa To The Rescue*.



@theadventuresof missgracie Cats like colouring too!



@ponynut Size doesn't matter when it comes to friendship.



@catslovecooking This cutie is ready for cuddles.

## Pets of the month!

Want your **cute pet** to be featured in our next issue? Just **post your snap** on any social media, tag us at @homesplusmag and hashtag #homesplusmagpets.



## OUR PET ISSUES

# LISA'S PET ADVICE

Pets bring lots of love and joy to the home, but problems can arise, too. **Expert help** is at hand!

## Adopt a pet

Each year thousands of pets end up in shelters as strays, victims of abuse or because their owners are unable to care for them. Shelters, such as the **Animal Welfare League** (Awla.com.au), work tirelessly to find new homes for these beautiful animals. If you have done the research and are ready to own a pet, then consider adopting one from a shelter. You will be giving them a **second chance at a happy life**.

Many shelters will help find the right animal for you, whether it's a puppy or kitten, or a particular breed. The best shelters will make sure animals have passed **behavioural assessments and health checks**. Animals will also be desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, wormed and treated for fleas.

Never rush into a decision to get a pet – make sure that you are **financially, physically and**

**logistically able to care for them.**

Remember that most of the pets that end up in shelters are there because their owners failed to look at the big picture: that owning a pet is a massive **long-term commitment!** When you are ready, I suggest that you visit the shelters and spend time with the suitable animals. **Listen to advice** from the shelter workers, be sensible and practical, and follow your heart.

The **Christmas holidays** can be a great time to adopt a pet because you and your family are likely to spend more time at home to help **settle the pet into their new environment**.

All pets need constant training – remember the aim is **positive reinforcement**, where we reward the good behaviour and ignore the bad. By doing this, you'll ensure your new family member will have the best start to their new life in their forever home. ♥

## Check out these resources for adopting a pet:

- Awla.com.au ➤ Adoptapet.com.au ➤ Dehanimaladoptions.com.au
- Deniseatpaws.com.au ➤ Dogshome.com ➤ Foreverfriends.org.au
- Maggiesrescue.com ➤ Petrescue.com.au ➤ Rspca.org.au/adopt-pet



# WHERE TO BUY

THE WEBSITES PROVIDED BELOW ARE NOMINATED BY THE SUPPLIER AS THE NATIONAL CONTACT DETAILS FOR LOCATING YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST.  
+ INDICATES THAT THE SUPPLIER OFFERS ONLINE OR MAIL-ORDER SHOPPING OR ORDERING



**I 1825 Interiors**  
1825interiors.com.au +

**A Adairs**  
adairs.com.au +  
**All Wrapped Up**  
allwrappedup.net.au +

**B Baby Donkie**  
babydonkie.com.au +  
**Beacon Lighting**  
beaconlighting.com.au +  
**Bed Bath N' Table**  
bedbathtable.com.au +  
**Big W** bigw.com.au +  
**Blacklist Studio**  
blackliststudio.com +  
**Bonnie and Neil**  
bonnieandneil.com.au +  
**Bunnings**  
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**C Castle**  
castleandthings.com.au +  
**Citta Design**  
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**Clickon Furniture**  
clickonfurniture.com.au +  
**Clinique** clinique.com.au +  
**Cotton On**  
cottonon.com.au +  
**Country Road**  
countrypath.com.au +

**D Dan Murphy's**  
danmurphys.com.au +  
**David Jones**  
davidjones.com.au +  
**Davis & Waddell**  
davisandwaddell.com.au

**Design Twins**  
designtwins.com +  
**Domayne**  
domayneonline.com.au +  
**Down To The Woods**  
downtothewoods.com.au +  
**Dulux**  
dulux.com.au +

**E Early Settler**  
earlysettler.com.au +  
**Eckersley's Art & Craft**  
eckersleys.com.au +

**F Freedom**  
freedom.com.au +

**G Glasshouse Fragrances**  
glasshousefragrances.com +  
**Grown Alchemist**  
grownalchemist.com +

**H Hard To Find**  
hardtofind.com.au +  
**Haymes**  
haymespaint.com.au  
**Harvey Norman**  
harveynorman.com.au +  
**Have You Met Miss Jones**  
haveyoumetmissjones.com.au +

**I Ikea**  
ikea.com.au

**J Just Bricks**  
justbricks.com.au +

**K Kambrook**  
kambrook.com.au  
**Kikki.k** kikki-k.com +  
**Kip & Co** kipandco.net.au +  
**Kmart** kmart.com.au +

**L Laura Ashley**  
laura-ashley.com.au +  
**Leo & Bella**  
leoandbella.com.au +  
**Life Interiors**  
lifeinteriors.com.au +  
**Lightly** lightly.com.au +  
**Lincraft** lincraft.com.au +  
**Little Paper Lane**  
littlepaperlane.com.au +  
**Logitech** logitech.com +  
**Love Struck Homewares**  
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**R Retrojan**  
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roddandgunn.com +  
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**S Schots Home Emporium**  
schots.com.au +  
**Sherwin-Williams**  
sherwin-williams.com.au  
**Spearmint Love**  
spearmintlove.com +  
**Spotlight**  
spotlightstores.com.au +  
**Sunnylife**  
sunnylife.com.au +  
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superamart.com.au +

**T Target**  
target.com.au +  
**Taubmans**  
taubmans.com.au  
**The Good Guys**  
thegoodguys.com.au +  
**The Woodsfolk**  
thewoodsfolk.com.au +  
**Tiny Me** tinyme.com.au +  
**Toys R Us** toyrus.com.au +  
**Typo** typoshop.com.au +

**V Vinyl Cuts**  
vinylcuts.com.au +

**W West Elm**  
westelm.com.au +  
**Woolworths**  
woolworths.com.au +

**Z Zakkia**  
zakkia.com.au +  
**Zanui** zanui.com.au +

**YOUR PLACE IN HOMES+**  
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## ABOUT SCOTTY

Scotty Cam is a DIY legend, *The Block* host and an all-round top bloke. Plus, he's Dad to Charlie, Sarah and Bill.

### SCOTTY'S DIY

# XMAS DECOR

Scotty Cam shows how to make this cute **Chrissy tree house ornament**.

**BEGIN WITH** LENGTH OF TIMBER (7CM X 4CM) PLUS TIMBER SCRAPS TO USE AS STAMPS; PENCIL; RULER; CIRCULAR SAW; DRILL; PAINTBRUSH; RED PAINT; BLACK PAINT; ROPE

**STEP ONE** Place the timber on the table longways vertically. On the top edge, mark the centre point.

**STEP TWO** To create the roof line, rule a diagonal line about 45° from the centre point to the right, towards the outside edge. Repeat on left side. The lines don't have to be perfectly even – it's better if your house is a bit rough looking.

**STEP THREE** Use a circular saw to cut along the lines, creating the house shape.

Now work out how big your house needs to be and mark the bottom line – about 7cm down from the roof line. Cut along that line with the saw.

**STEP FOUR** You need to be able to hang your decoration, so drill a hole right through, near the roof peak.

**STEP FIVE** Paint the roof red.

**STEP SIX** Use timber scraps to stamp the window and door. My window is a 1cm square and my door is about 1cm x 2cm. Dip the end of the small stamp into black paint then press onto the house in the window positions. Repeat with the other stamp to make the door shape.

**STEP SEVEN** Thread rope through the hole. Tie a knot then trim excess length. **H+**



1



#### I'll do you a deal

Check out Scotty's website under "Mates Rates" for great discounts on workwear and books. Head to [www.scottycam.com.au](http://www.scottycam.com.au).



#### STEP-BY-STEP VIDEO

Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page and check out Scotty's how-to video for this hanging festive house.



2



3



4



5



6



7



# NEXT MONTH

( ON SALE 28 DECEMBER )

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## STEP-BY- STEP DIY GUIDES

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## FAB FRUITY ICE-BLOCK RECIPES



## January issue homes+

- \* The best decorating trends for 2016
- \* Set your New Year health goals
- \* Where to go camping this summer
  - \* A Mexican menu to share
- \* Scotty makes a hanging plant holder
- \* Great gear for the pool and beach

PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES HENRY, KATHERINE JAMISON & BAUERSYNDICATION.COM.AU

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